

MEDIA RELEASE
26.03.2015

**ANU RESEARCH TEAM CALLS FOR SWIFT PARROTS TO BE UPLISTED TO CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**

A recent Population Viability Analysis (PVA) by scientists from UTAS, ANU and the Chicago Zoological Society has found that with a business as usual attitude to managing Swift Parrot conservation, their population will decrease by between 80% to 95% over their next three generations (approximately 16 years), as published by the ANU last night. This was largely due to predation by Sugar Gliders, which occurs most in areas subject to logging. These findings see the Swift Parrot now meet the criteria for up-listing to Critically Endangered, which is what they are calling upon the Government to do.

Environment Tasmania seconds this call.

Andrew Perry, Environment Tasmania's spokesperson for forests, said "In light of our recent findings that Minister Groom's Environment Department repeatedly ignored expert advice regarding the conservation of Swift Parrot breeding habitat. This is a horror wake-up call for the Hodgman Government, as Tasmania will be ground zero for this bird's extinction if it doesn't act swiftly, and sincerely."

"Sadly, the release of our Pulling A Swiftie report was met with little more than double-speak, weasel-words, and buck-passing. Now we know that should this continue, we will likely watch this unique and precious species die before our eyes."

"We now call on all political parties, Federal and State, to do all they can to ensure the Governments' responsibilities under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation and Tasmanian Threatened Species Acts are both recognised, and realised", urged Mr Perry.

These findings further support our earlier call for an injunction on the further logging of Swift Parrot breeding habitat, and for an inquiry into how expert advice could be so recklessly dismissed by DPIPWE.

Mr Perry concluded "Until the government is able to demonstrate any leadership and bona fides on this issue, any assurances it might offer the public to only approve activities within our wilderness that are respectful and appropriate to the environment will ring very hollow indeed".

COMMENT

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