

In October 2008 the Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett, announced that the EPA could not be used to protect the Wielangta Forest in Tasmania from logging. This Forest is a major nesting site for Swift Parrot, an endangered species of which there are only 2000 pairs left in the wild.

This is yet another example of where the EPA has failed to protect endangered species and ecosystems. Obviously the EPA needs to be strengthened so that it can protect the environment.

The other thing about the EPA is that it has been suggested that sometimes the EPA could have been invoked to protect a species or ecosystem, but for political reasons the Minister decided not to invoke it. The Wielangta decision is a case in point. What your review needs to consider is whether there not some mechanism in revised EPA that means that it is *automatically* invoked in certain circumstances, regardless of the Government's willingness or not to invoke it.