



Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 7—Planning and Environment
c/o Budget Estimates Secretariat
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Faehrmann

Clarification of evidence provided during Energy and Environment Budget Estimates hearing – 2 March 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify evidence I provided to Portfolio Committee No. 7 during the Energy and Environment hearing for Budget Estimates on 2 March 2021.

At the hearing, you asked me if there have been any changes to the listing of any threatened flora and fauna in New South Wales following the Black Summer fires. My response, recorded on page 70 of the uncorrected transcript, was:

“There have been no further determinations on the basis of the bushfire, though I understand that some nominations are under consideration, albeit that we know that 600 species of plants and animals had sightings in the bushfire-affected areas.”

While this statement is accurate, I wish to clarify this evidence. Though there has been no Final Determination to list any species as threatened due to the bushfires, the independent NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) has made a Provisional Determination, on an emergency basis, to list the shrub, *Leionema westonii*. When making the provisional listing, the TSSC took into consideration that the shrub had not regenerated 10 to 12 months after the fires. The shrub is only known from a single population in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park in NSW, from an area burnt (with high to extreme fire severity) in late 2019.

After the provisional listing of a critically endangered or endangered species, the Committee must place a Preliminary Determination on display for public consultation and must make a Final Determination about the species within two years of the provisional listing. The provisional listing was placed on public exhibition on 12 February 2021 and submissions can be made until 12 May 2021.

If you have any questions about this clarification, please contact Ms Sandra Harris, Director, Ministerial Services, Environment, Energy and Science, via _____ or _____

Yours sincerely

Dr Georgina Kelly
Executive Director Science, Economics and Insights