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I am writing to show my support for cancelling the Western RFA, so that national environmental laws will apply to protect threatened species and habitats in the west of Victoria. It's outrageous to think that we would overlook these important national laws for the sake of a logging industry which is small in size and unprofitable.

I have spent much time in the state forests in the west of Victoria, and my family is lucky to own a block of bush adjacent to a state park. Spending time there, you grow to appreciate how rare and precious these few patches of native vegetation are. The west of the state represents the most heavily cleared area of Victoria, so the remaining uncleared bush is especially valuable and must not be further damaged and fragmented.

The area that the Western RFA encompasses is an area rich in threatened species and endangered habitats. One such species which is close to my heart is the South-eastern Red-tailed black cockatoo, which needs stringybark forests to feed in. It seems obvious that habitats which support threatened species must be protected, otherwise we are essentially selling off these natural wonders for the sake of short term gains. Once these species and ecosystems are destroyed, they cannot be recovered. Many of these species are already on the brink of further decline, so additional extraction and forestry will not be without consequence.

The Western RFA is almost 20 years old and is outdated and obsolete. It has not delivered a comprehensive protected area system in the west, and the ecological criteria used in the RFA are out of date and not consistent with other agreements and strategies which are now at play. A 2010 independent review recommended that it should be cancelled, and I support this finding.