



The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

B10/1855

Mr James O'Connor
Birds Australia
Suite 2-05
60 Leicester Street
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- 2 FEB 2011

Dear Mr O'Connor

Thank you for your organisation's nomination to include *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Australasian bittern) on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) list of threatened species.

The nomination has been assessed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee against the criteria for listing under the EPBC Act and the Committee has recommended that the Australasian bittern is eligible for listing as endangered, a recommendation I have accepted.

I am therefore pleased to advise you that your nomination has been successful and that the resultant listing of the Australasian bittern will confer significant protection on the species.

The reasons for the Committee's recommendations are detailed in the Committee's listing advice. The listing advice and the approved conservation advice for this species will soon be available on my department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

I have accepted the Committee's recommendation that there should be a recovery plan for the Australasian bittern as it occurs across multiple state boundaries and requires a complex suite of recovery and threat abatement actions.

I would like to thank you again for your nomination, which has contributed to the identification and protection of threatened species in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Tony Burke