Outdoor and Environmental Studies 2018–2023

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019

Introduction

The Victorian Parliament has passed amendments to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act. From 2020, students undertaking VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies (2018–2023) will study and be assessed against the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019.

This information specifically relates to VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies Unit 4: Sustainable outdoor Relationships, Area of Study 2, Sustainable outdoor environments. This includes the key knowledge and skills of:

* acts or conventions related to the management and sustainability of outdoor environments, including the following:
* Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (Vic)
* Ramsar Convention (international treaty, 1971)
* describe and evaluate the effectiveness of specific acts and conventions related to managing and sustaining outdoor environments.

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes. The Act’s objectives aim to conserve all of Victoria’s native plants and animals.

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (the Amendment Act) amends the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 to provide for a modern and strengthened framework for the protection of Victoria’s biodiversity. The amendments will take effect on 1 June 2020.

The review of the FFG Act was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement across government and with Traditional Owners, industry, environmental nongovernment organisations and the broader community.

The Amendment Act:

* retains the FFG Act’s objective to ‘guarantee’ the future of Victoria’s flora and fauna and updates it to recognise the importance of flora and fauna adapting to environmental change
* introduces principles to guide the implementation of the FFG Act, including consideration of the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and the impacts of climate change
* requires consideration of biodiversity across government to ensure decisions and policies are made ‘with proper consideration of the potential impacts on biodiversity’
* clarifies existing powers to determine critical habitat and improves their protection by encouraging cooperative management
* gives effect to a consistent national approach to assessing and listing threatened species, the Common Assessment Method, which will reduce duplication of effort between jurisdictions and facilitate the monitoring and reporting of species’ conservation status; and
* modernises the FFG Act’s enforcement framework including stronger penalties.

Conclusion

For the purposes of VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies (2018–2023) it is expected that students should be able to:

* identify the aims and/or objectives of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (Vic)
* explain the role of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (Vic) in the management   
  and sustainability of outdoor environments
* describe and evaluate the effectiveness of Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (Vic).

Further information about the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and can be accessed at [www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/victorias-framework-for-conserving-threatened-species](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/victorias-framework-for-conserving-threatened-species)