

A spokesperson for Federal Environment and Energy Minister, Josh Frydenberg told Radio National Breakfast:

"In March 2017, the Department of the Environment and Energy received a threatened species listing nomination from the Australian Forest Products Association to reassess the Leadbeater's possum status. The nomination was based on new information that indicated that possum colonies were more numerous than previously thought."

"The data collection, carried out by the Victorian Government over the past three years, included extensive targeted surveys for Leadbeater's possums and serves as a major source of new information which could provide us with a better understanding of the species' status - and therefore its conservation and management needs."

"As such, the Leadbeater's possum has been added to the 2017 Finalised Priority Assessment List for assessment by the independent Threatened Species Scientific Committee."

"The Threatened Species Scientific Committee has been asked to fast-track its assessment of the new information and provide the Government with its advice on the appropriate listing status for the Leadbeater's possum by 30 March 2018."

"While these two processes are being carried out, the current Leadbeater's possum recovery plan and the 2015 conservation advice will remain in place to guide conservation efforts."

The spokesperson for Minister Frydenberg confirmed that the Leadbeater's Possum Review by the ANU had been received by the Minister's office. He said the report would be considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee as part of its priority review of the conservation status of the Leadbeater's Possum.