



THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

MC23-033533

Jeanie Jollife Wilczek and Asher Elizabeth Mceldrew
Brunswick North West Primary
2 Culloden Street
BRUNSWICK WEST VIC 3055

Dear Jeanie and Asher

Thank you for your letter about protecting the Leadbeater's possum. As you know, this wonderful animal is only found in the central highland forests near Melbourne, and it needs everyone to work together to make sure they continue to survive.

The Australian Government is working hard to protect all our threatened species including the Leadbeater's possum. Australia's national environment law provides protection for Leadbeater's possum and a Recovery Plan for the species has been updated to include all the things that need to be done to help it recover in the wild. These things include protecting Leadbeater's possums from logging, managing fire to protect trees with hollows in them where the possums live, and restoring possum habitats. At Healesville Sanctuary, Leadbeater's possums are being looked after to help us learn more about how they breed so that more possums can be grown to be put back in their forest homes.

The Leadbeater's possum is one of the priority species in Australia's *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032*, which lists the species and places that most urgently need our attention. The \$224.5 million Saving Native Species Program has been set up to help get conservation action in place for Leadbeater's possum and other priority species. In addition, we have given \$147,000 to Melbourne Water to restore Leadbeater's possum habitats and gather seeds of the trees where the possums like to live, so we can grow more of these forests in the future.

Thank you again Jeanie and Asher for writing to me. It is very encouraging to know that young people like you care so much about our native wildlife.

Yours sincerely

TANYA PLIBERSEK

30.1.24