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### LAUNCH OF FAUNAL EMBLEMS CASE STUDIES TO HELP VCE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND EXTINCTION ISSUES

A valuable VCE resource addressing the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater is being launched today at the *Environment Educators Victoria Environmental Science Teachers Conference*.

The Conference brings together VCE and other teachers to discuss topical issues across the curriculum and support teachers practicing in this critical area.

Generously funded by the Andrews Foundation, the VCE Case Study exploring whether Biodiversity and Development can be sustained, is the result of consultation by the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater with Science and Environmental Science teachers about how we can support the curriculum to empower young people to wrestle with this complex issue as well as providing valuable resources. Published author and VCE Environmental Science teacher Andrew Dodson prepared the Case Study in alignment with the VCE guidelines for Environmental Science 2022-2026, specifically Unit 3: How can biodiversity and development be sustained?

Experts from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, along with staff and volunteers from the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, also contributed valuable time and effort in finalising this work.

"We are very pleased to be able to contribute to the understanding of Victorian students of some of the issues facing our unique flora and fauna, and in particular our critically endangered State Bird emblem," said President of the Friends' Group, Professor Alan Clayton.

"We hope this work will provide VCE and other Science teachers with a valuable resource so students can develop the knowledge and critical thinking skills to help us tackle the many environmental problems we face going forward," he added.

"It was a great experience to collaborate with the Friends' group to produce this publication and I hope it becomes a widely used resource for teachers of the subject," added author Andrew Dodson.

The Case Study is available electronically on the Friends Website at <https://www.helmetedhoneyeater.org.au/get-involved/school-groups/>

The Leadbeater's Possum Case Study, prepared in conjunction with the Friends of Leadbeater's Possum, is close to finalisation and will shortly be available on the Friends website.

**More information:**

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