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## LEADBEATER'S POSSUM VCE CASE STUDY TO HELP ENRICH VCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHING

A valuable VCE resource supporting VCE Environmental Science students and teachers, addressing issues surrounding the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum is now available on the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater's website.

Generously funded by the Andrews Foundation, the VCE Case Study is the result of work undertaken by the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Friends of Leadbeater's Possum to help support the environmental science curriculum and introduce budding scientists to some of our most pressing conservation problems. 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 State Government, along with staff and volunteers from the two Friends groups, 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, with a focus on our State Bird and Mammal emblems," said Virginia Wallace, a Co-President (with Andrew Kelly) of the Friends' Group.

"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," she added.

"The Case Study covers the biology of Leadbeater's Possum, the threats of logging, fire and climate change, population issues and conservation actions and suggests questions for the class room teacher to prompt critical thinking among their students," said President of the Friends of Leadbeater's Possum, Steve Meacher.

"Without stronger action to protect habitat for our State Faunal Emblem, the alarming decline in possum populations will continue to extinction," 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/download-the-vce-leadbeaters-possum-case-study/>

**More information:**

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