

The Senate Standing Committee  
on Environment and Communication Legislation Committee  
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Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
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15<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Committee Secretariat,

**National Parks Australia Council Inc**

**Submission to**

**The Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communication Legislation Committee:  
Inquiry into the Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this enquiry.**

**I am addressing the** Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 from the point of view of practicality.

Australia is a vast country with many differing environments and many different regional systems. If each system is treated as a discrete area then there is no overriding authority to judge the effects of environmental decisions made at a local level, or even state level, to determine whether it is the best decision or whether it has impacts on other parts of the nation.

It is akin to looking at a medical problem such as heart disease without taking into account whether the treatment is overlooking some other more urgent problem. For the sake of consistency it is urgent that this legislation has a federal decision maker.

Yours sincerely  
Helen Hutchinson