

Dear ECITA Committee,

The South East Region Conservation Alliance, representing a wide range of community environmental and conservation organizations in SE NSW, wishes to express its severe concerns over the proposed amendments to the EPBC Act, which we believe will greatly diminish its effectiveness and protection for endangered species and threatened ecological communities.

We, the community of this area, strongly object to any reduction in processing costs and time for development interests, and especially any provisions which take Ministerial decisions out of the public and scientific arena.

We believe that the Minister should NOT have any arbitrary discretion to remove species or communities from the List, nor should there be any 'thematic' approach to listing.

We further believe that the mandatory requirement for a Recovery Plan for all listed threatened species or ecological communities **SHOULD BE RETAINED**, as should be the requirement to identify critical habitat for all threatened species.

We look forward to receiving your response on how the original objectives of this critically important legislation have been maintained.

Yours sincerely,

John Hibberd
Convenor, SERCA