

EPBC Submission Oct 26th 2006

The Secretary
Manduka Cooperative
PO Box 169
Maleny 4552

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts
Legislation Committee
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Post PO Box 6100, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600]

Dear Secretary,

Environment & Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2006

We have found the EPBC Act to be a vital agent for protection of some species and ecosystems in Australia. We are aware that certain environmental changes do not trigger the Act. Of most importance to us are changes in environmental flow of a river as in the case of increased water extraction and dams. This is particularly relevant in the case of the Qld Lung Fish. We are also very concerned about Climate Change and would like to see the EPBC take this environmental impact into account.

Further, endangered species and ecosystems which involve the Act should not be arbitrarily chosen by the Minister. These species should be involved according to their conservation status

We urge that reasonable community involvement be possible without need for any increased amount of money. It is important for accountability and social cohesion that ordinary community members be able to participate in the protection of biodiversity. We are well aware in Maleny of the need for people to have a reasonable amount of time and access to information in order to make worthwhile input. Lack of access to information restricts ordinary people's ability to make an informed contribution to environmental decisions under the legislation and it also alienates people from the processes of government and industry.

We advise you to include wetlands of national importance not just international importance, to expand the listed migratory species trigger to also include Annexure 1 of UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, and to extend the trigger for Cth marine areas to include State and Territory managed fisheries in Cth marine areas unless accredited.

These are our main concerns with the proposed changes, and we thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Gillian Pechey Director

for the Manduka Cooperative Maleny Qld.