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**Submission on the Environment and Heritage Legislation
Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2006**

National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2006.

NPA is concerned about a number of amendments in the Bill that would weaken environmental protection offered by the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act or diminish the ability of the public to participate in the procedures in the Act.

The EPBC Act has offered an effective framework for protecting the natural environment. It provides an important platform for the Commonwealth Government to provide a leadership role in conserving the natural environment. At a time where the NSW Government has recently amended its Threatened Species Conservation Act (weakening key provisions, such as mandatory recovery planning) and failed to put in place effective threat abatement plans and streamline its development approval process in favour of development over environmental protection it is now more important that ever for the Commonwealth Government to play a strong role in this area.

The Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Network has developed a detailed submission on the Bill and made a series of recommendations. NPA fully agrees with and supports this submission.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cox
Executive Officer