



Australian Marine Conservation Society

P.O Box 5136, MANLY 4179

ph: 61 7 3393 5811

fax: 61 7 3393 5833

email:amcs@amcs.org.au

website:www.amcs.org.au

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts
Legislation Committee
email ecita.sen@aph.gov.au
Fax 02 6277 5818.

Dear Secretary,

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

The Australian Marine Conservation Society makes the following comments on the above Bill. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this significant legislation which significantly affects the preservation of Australia's environments for future generations.

- The Bill should not remove the right to challenge Ministerial decisions relating to listed threatened species, migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, and international wildlife trade.
- The Bill should not allow the Minister to remove controversial nominated species (such as commercial marine fish) ecological community, or key threatening process from the annual list of species to be assessed for listing, and from the Scientific Committee's consideration altogether.
- The Bill should not allow the Minister to delay and remove altogether already submitted public nominations for the listing of threatened species, ecological communities, key threatening processes and National Heritage.
- The Bill should not allow for the fast-tracking of development proposals, at the expense of adequate environmental impact assessment, under the guise of 'streamlining' the approvals process.
- The Bill should not make it harder for the public to secure legal protection for threatened species and ecological communities The new

requirement under the Bill for public nominations to comply with “themes” set by the Minister will likely limit scope of public nominations.

- Even if the conservation status of a threatened species has worsened (which is the trend for species) if there has been rejection of protection in the past the Minister can refuse to have the threatened species assessed at the current time. This is unacceptable and the Bill should not allow this.
- The Bill does not adequately address the very important issue of Climate Change. The Bill should address climate change including having a climate change trigger.
- The Bill will potentially allow developers to simply pay money to gain approval for their development through broadening the types of conditions to be attached to development, including voluntarily compensatory actions and financial contributions to offset the impacts the development will have on the environment. We should not be applying an offsets system and the Bill should not allow this.

Yours Sincerely
Adele Pedder
Northern Marine Campaigner