

I would like to express great concern for the Environment and Heritage Amendment Bill, and in particular the implications for the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Environmental Protection and Conservation Act is a vital piece of legislation for the protection of many of the species and ecological communities that are threatened within Australia. As someone who has worked in environmental management for most of my professional life, I am very concerned that the proposed amendment Bill will greatly compromise the integrity of this Act. The amendment Environment and Heritage Amendment Bill can potentially remove protection for many threatened species and ecological communities that are either currently listed or require listing. The outcomes that will come from the proposed amendments will provide little benefit in comparison to the serious erosion the purposes that the original Environmental Protection and Conservation Act is intended for. It will lead to a situation where the status of our threatened biodiversity can be effected by arbitrary decision making. I urge the Committee to seriously consider the implications of this amendment Bill these proposals that will greatly effect the effectiveness of the biodiversity protection legislation in Australia.

Yours Sincerely

Nathan Summers