

Dear Committee members

I write to express my grave concern regarding the amendments to this Bill. We are in the middle of the worst drought in our history. Species are disappearing every day from our landscape. Mr Howard is currently visiting drought affected farmers where huge tracts of land are bare. When will the light go on in Canberra and acknowledge that it is our **TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATIVE FLORA THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NIGHTMARE.**

The clearing of vast tracts of land for intensive agriculture has altered the microclimates that conserved water in this dry continent. It is essential that you do not support the amendments to this Bill. No one Minister should have the responsibility to consign our precious ecosystems to oblivion. Now more than ever we need to protect our threatened species and ecological communities.

Please think of the planet and its survival.

Janine Turner Tasmania