

Dear Committee Members

I strongly object to the hasty introduction of amendments to the EPBC Act by the Federal Government on 12 October 2006, without consultation, to favour development interests over ecological wellbeing.

In these times of rapid climate change and loss of species diversity, I regard it as outrageous that our existing species protection legislation is to be further eroded to the detriment of threatened species and ecological communities and areas of critical habitat. It should not be possible to leave decisions which will result in major impacts upon our flora and fauna to a Minister's discretion and legislative steps should be taken to avoid this possibility.

I hope submissions from community members will be taken into consideration in order to protect our precious natural environment from rapacious commercial development interests. Our natural heritage belongs to us all!

Valerie Hutt