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Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications,
IT and the Arts Committee
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Dear Dr Holland

**INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL (NO.1) 2006**

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No.1) 2006.

CME does not advocate for lower standards of environmental protection measures but rather promotes improvements to the efficiency and co-ordination of legislation within and between jurisdictions. CME thus supports the majority of proposed amendments improving the efficiency of EPBC Act such as the proposed changes to assessment and approval provisions.

CME recognises the need for changes to the compliance and enforcement provisions but seeks clarification regarding the resources sector's obligations should these changes be implemented specifically the proposed extension of liability to employers (including employers of contractors) and for landowners.

CME supports the proposed package of amendments as a step towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of protection for matters of National Environmental Significance. Should you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Archana Mishra, Executive Officer, Environment at (08) 9220 8514 or a.mishra@cmewa.com.

CME also endorses the submission made by the Minerals Council of Australia on this matter.

Yours sincerely


Tim Shanahan
Chief Executive Officer