

Honourable Senators

I ask that you reject the Environment & Heritage Amendment Bill (No.1) 2006 outright.

Many legitimate concerns have been raised about this bill, and from my own limited reading it is apparent that the bill is deeply flawed. Not only is this complex piece of legislation being rushed through the senate, a practice which seems to be more and more common in recent times, but the bill does not contain a single change to the powers of the environment minister that is of any benefit to the environment.

Now my belief, which considering recent developments may be erroneous, was that the Ministry for the Environment was established to protect and preserve the environment for future generations, not to make it easier for big business and economic interests to exploit our natural heritage.

How is it in Australia's BEST interests that the Minister will have the power to deny species and ecological communities proper protection based on the whims of his own party.

How is that representative democracy? What qualifications do you have Mr Campbell that make you think you are capable of making the right choices outside of the rigorous processes that already exist?

Some fantastic and exemplary decisions have been made in the past by the Minister of the Environment, please do not change the trend to fantastical and contemptible.

Yours sincerely

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