

This is a submission to express my concern about the proposed amendment:

Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1)

The purpose of this act was clearly expressed by Parliament during the second-reading speech (<http://www.deh.gov.au/epbc/about/secondreading.html>).

The minister stated that:

"Reform is necessary because the existing suite of Commonwealth law does not ensure high environmental standards in the areas of Commonwealth responsibility. Just as importantly, the existing legislation does not provide the community with certainty as to the Commonwealth's role, nor does it provide an efficient and timely assessment and approval process."

However, as Mr Albanese notes this proposed amendment will result in a reduced degree of Commonwealth responsibility and an inadequate public consultation process. Considering that these were two of the principle motivations that fuelled the creation of the act in the first place, it hardly seems responsible to allow this amendment to progress any further.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Meg Good (6/11/2006)