



The United Bird Societies of South Australia Inc.

An affiliate of the Avicultural Federation of Australia Incorporated.

Executive Officer
Mr. Brian Reichelt

Patron
His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AO CSC RANR
Governor of South Australia

Web : www.unitedbirds.asn.au

Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012.

The United Bird Societies of South Australia Inc. (UBSSA) represents aviary bird keepers in South Australia and all known bird clubs – currently 27 in number – are affiliated with this organisation. UBSSA has been functioning for over 30 years and during that time has been the peak Avicultural body in South Australia.

As bird keeping hobbyists, our members have a keen interest in environmental issues and are concerned at the continuing detrimental impacts of developmental priorities being granted above conservational needs. We see a continuation of development decisions which are resulting in further degradation of habitat zones across the nation. Consequently, there are more and more of our native flora and fauna species being assessed as being “at risk” or “endangered” etc. We question whether this is the outcome from having environmental responsibilities spread across individual states or territories thus facilitating a convoluted environmental plan for our nation.

Our environment does not recognise the artificial state and territory boundaries and the decision of one authority may impact heavily upon the area of environmental responsibility of its neighbouring state or territory. This does not make sense and therefore the current proposal to pass more responsibilities to the states and territories appears to be just about opposite to what we believe to be really needed. We have but one national environment to care for and protect. How this can be best achieved with management decisions being made by every state/territory and the Federal Government functioning as individually separated and segregated authorities cannot be understood.

Our organisation supports prima facie, actions which will assist in achieving a national level environmental management decision making structure.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Reichelt

Brian Reichelt
Executive Officer
10th November 2012