

To The Senate Environment and Communications Committee;

Thank you for accepting my submission and for the opportunity to be part of the inquiry in to the proposed Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012.

I support the proposed bill and ask the senate to make it unlawful for the Government to hand-off its environmental responsibilities to the states. Since its election, our current LNP State Government has proven it's inexperience across a variety of areas including the economy and the environment. With regard to environmental protection in Queensland I am particularly concerned about the risk posed to the Great Barrier Reef should management be handed to the State Government. The Great Barrier Reef is a global treasure and a priceless national resource. I do not believe the State Government would (due to vested interests in expanding coal mining) or could (due to a lack of skills required) manage such a valuable resource in an environmentally or economically sustainable way. The mismanagement of the Reef, should management be handed to the State Government, will have negative ramifications that will reverberate throughout our national economy and therefore it must continue to be managed by the Federal Government.

Yours Sincerely

Lara Murray