

Subject: Submission on the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025

11/11/2025

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the **Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025**.

This submission is made on behalf of Protect the Bush Alliance Inc: <https://ptba.net.au/>

Protect the Bush Alliance is a community of citizens and scientists, working together to protect Queensland's bush. With threats to biodiversity escalating, we need to take urgent action to protect Australia's flora and fauna from habitat degradation, land clearing, feral animals, and invasive weeds.

Significantly, we as citizen scientists, are witnessing the demise of our treasured landscapes and the decreasing abundance of vertebrate and invertebrate species. PTBA has undertaken multiple monitoring projects to support expansion of Queensland's protected area estate, yet we remain at a paltry 8.6%. With ever increasing demand for coal, gas, logging, urban development and the addition of BESS, wind, solar, gold and critical minerals, Queensland's biodiversity is critically imperiled. Our fauna seems the sacrificial lamb

The many promises of improved protections have become false promises. In response to the Samuel's Review, Minister Tanya Plibersek met with Queensland's conservation sector and made an even stronger commitment (agreed by international standards) to protect 30% of land and sea. It seems promises made prior to election cycles are rapidly forgotten. If there is the slightest regard for the intended 'Traffic Lights System', then projects we have previously presented to Senator Murray Watts as **Minister for the Environment** (not resources) should not be approved. The Minister must be faithful to this commitment. These are:

1) Magnetic South's Gemini Mine (1.9mt minimal EA studies a falsehood) and more recently Greater Glider confirmed by members of Lock the Gate.

2) Woogaroo Forest with myriad MNES. Koala, Powerful Owl, Greyheaded Flying Fox and 4 listed, 2 critically rare flora species.

3) Ballymore's Gold Mine at Dittmer. To proceed without any hydrology studies is profoundly negligent. This case represented by Jeudi Croker of Save Whitsunday Water:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveWhitsundayWater/posts/pfbid02Y5C7ZLmm1xsWCFdURcVBzUqHZcbHN476vgnDhWXdVFLLk4D7Tnb3hkX6F6juMPR9I>

It is with profound disappointment that we recommend **this Bill be opposed** because it offers less protection than the current EPBC Act, which the Minister himself admitted was failing to protect environmental values. To have expected stronger legislation and find that the Bill represents a substantial contraction of environmental governance, is wholly unacceptable.

The Bill would strip community participation from environmental decisions, hand key powers back to state and territory governments, and allow the fast-tracking of coal, gas, critical minerals, renewables and other high-risk developments, putting ecosystems, water resources, Threatened species and communities at risk.

Please find attached the following documents previously submitted for consideration by the Minister. Both cases are deserving of robust federal oversight and represent a **Flashing Red Light**. These areas must be protected without equivocation; each is of critical value to multiple MNES.

We offer the Committee members support as they determine a way ahead which avoids the worsening destruction of **Queensland's** environment, water resources, and nationally significant ecosystems.

Yours sincerely

Sheena Gillman
BirdLife SQ Convener & Chair of Conservation
Chairperson Protect the bush Alliance



