

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015

Dear Committee Members,

I was disturbed to hear that the Federal Government, led by our Attorney-General George Brandis, has introduced a bill to the Australian Parliament aimed at reducing the ability of environment groups to bring legal actions against developments which may harm the environment under the EPBC Act.

Mr Brandis has already attacked the environment by cutting funds to Environmental Defenders Offices around Australia, which do critical work to protect the environment.

I take offence at comments made by Mr Brandis and Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt, referring to these groups and their members as 'vigilantes' and 'saboteurs'.

I don't consider myself a 'saboteur', but I do consider that this government is sabotaging our future by promoting environmentally damaging projects, such as the Adani Coal Port.

I care deeply about the environment, which is why I choose to support groups such as the Environment Centre NT.

As a Territorian, I want to see ecologically sustainable development, not investment in dirty fossil fuels and environmentally damaging projects which could harm our communities, wildlife as well as our extraordinary natural and cultural icons.

Governments and industry are prone to short-term thinking which places short-term economic gains and their own vested interests ahead of environmental protection. I am here for the long-haul and I want to offer future generations a chance at a better world, where our water, climate and biodiversity is protected from unsustainable development.

Environment groups and their supporters play a critical role in providing a voice for the environment, and our right to take action must be vigorously defended by you, our representatives, if we are to continue to call Australia a democracy.

Regards,

--