

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012**. As a socially and environmentally conscious citizen I am concerned at the Federal Government's recent proposal to hand over the environmental powers to the states. This is especially important with the current political climate where there are several states that have governments in power that are strongly influenced by big business and mining and therefore are willing to sell their valuable environmental assets for short term economic gain rather than the country's long term future. These states are hell bent on development at any cost and, as has been seen by the current Queensland Government, their environmental assessments of high impact projects have been shonky at best, with an agenda to promote development at any cost.

At a time where our environment hangs on a shoe-string and we are facing immense pressure from environmental constraints in the coming years, Australia should be protecting these places of high environmental value. By amending the bill it will ensure current and future state governments are held to account on their environmental decisions and it will help to ensure protection for our most significant environmental assets for future generations.

Too frequently we stand aside for both local and foreign interests to strip our land and waters of their resources and leave a trail of pollution and destruction behind. It is time for the Federal Government to stand up to big business and take a long term view of the future, in the interest of all Australians of current and future generations, instead of allowing the mining and business sectors and the conservative state governments to bully them into making a decision that only please those out to make a quick buck.

I urge you to please stop holding our country's environmental and social future at ransom by supporting the amendment to the bill and ensure the Federal Government will always have the final say on key environmental decisions. As a certain campaign mentions, these areas are protected for a reason and are 'too precious to lose'.

Regards,

Adam Connell