

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

I understand that the proposed Bill will repeal section 487 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. Section 487 currently extends standing to seek judicial review of decisions to certain individuals, organisations and associations.

I believe s487 of the EPBC Act is a very important part of the Act and increases rigour in the approvals process for projects which impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Our national environmental law is meant to protect our most important natural assets and prevent developments which would impact these.

Matters of National Environmental Significance include World Heritage Areas, Commonwealth Marine Areas, the Great Barrier Reef and threatened species. I believe all Australians should continue to have the right to appeal to the courts under s487 if there is a legitimate concern that a decision on a development would impact on these assets.

I encourage the Senate Standing Committee on Environment to reject the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015.