Australia has arguably the worst rate of extinction in the world. When whiteman arrived, numbers of bilbies, quolls, mallee fowl, hopping mice, dingoes, koalas, cassowaries, plains rats, etc. were all in bountiful numbers. We have lost so many animals and plants and endangered so many more.

The Tasmanian Tiger is our most famous loss, having been deliberately persecuted for killing sheep. Yet recent research shows its jaw structure totally incapable of killing sheep. Nevertheless, the Tasmanian Government failed to act, not protecting the tiger until just 59 days before it faded into the history books. A shame on our forefathers and a state government proving itself incapable of managing the environment. The attempt to dam the Franklin River another example of the Tasmanian Government's inability to manage its environment.

Fraser Island - a World Heritage Listed Area. Over the last ten years, dingo numbers on the island have plummeted due to the Queensland Government's mismanagement and constant interference with the nature of the island. This has also impacted on the ability and rights of the indigenous people to practice and participate in their culture - another breach of United Nations conventions. The dingo is an essential part of their culture and the QLD government's mismanagement of the island and the dingoes is an international disgrace. Our obligations under the WHA scheme are certainly not being met on Fraser Island.

Furthermore, in QLD, media reports state the QLD government has decided to stop fighting fire-ants, instead preferring to redirect their fire-ant budget to poisoning dingoes with 1080, a poison so toxic it is banned in virtually the entire world, except for Australia and New Zealand. There is no cure to accidental ingestion. It provides a slow agonizing death to those that eat it, and to the plethora of native animals (birds, etc) that then eat the rotting carcasses. Yet the fire-ant represents a national ecological disaster that will dwarf the cane-toad into insignificance. The fire-ant will devastate billions of dollars of crops and our rainforests (and the tourism industry that goes with it). They devour anything and everything in their paths. Yet the QLD Government decides to ignore this environmental cataclysm. They feel it more important to kill our dingo, described by Mark Twain as "beautiful" and the "most precious dog in the world".

In NSW, the O'Farrell Government has decided to open up our National parks (National Parks, not State Parks) in a vote-buying free-for-all shoot fest. Wild dogs are on the list. How will shooters know the difference between the IUCN internationally declared endangered dingo and kelpie wild-dog look-a-likes? What about public safety? What about our obligations to the international community which regards the dingo as an endangered species, to be extinct in less than 20 years??? How can they ensure fragile sandstone features like The Breadknife in the Wurrumbungles won't become target practice? Once ruined, ruined forever. The NSW government has just proved it cannot be trusted to look after the environment.

Also in NSW, many endangered plants have had management plans drawn up, published on the Internet. Strategies for plant recovery programs include getting them into the nursery industry for propagation and sale. Yet where are they? These plans are merely written up, filed away and not acted upon.

In Victoria, the dingo has supposedly been protected by being declared an endangered species. Yet it is still legal to kill the reported remaining 100-200 animals left. The Victorian government has just proved it cannot be trusted to manage its environment, showing a complete and utter disdain for the intent of threatened species legislation.

The dingo is an apex predator. If the dingo is removed from the eco-system, a whole chain reaction of extinctions will follow. The dingo protects our smaller mammals from predators such as feral cats and foxes. It protects our vegetation, much of it endangered, by controlling rabbits. Thus the dingo can be of benefit to farmers. Our iconic dingo is too precious to loose. Go to the zoo and stand by the dingo exhibit - people love dingoes. It is not good enough to let them go the way of the Tasmanian Tiger.

Many more examples can be given, but these are very clear cases of state mismanagement of their respective environments. It seems to me the states should be removed of their environmental powers, not given total control. We cannot allow this to happen. It will be a disaster for our wildlife and fragile ecology.