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Committee Chair  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
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25 November 2020

***Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment  
(Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020***

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at the public hearing on 23 November 2020 as part of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications (Legislation) inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020* (the Bill).

During evidence we were asked by the Committee as to the nature of consultations between our respective organisations and our broader grouping, the Places You Love Alliance (PYL), and the Government on the Bill.

The Places You Love alliance (PYL) is an alliance of over 60 environmental organisations from across the country which formed to fight for stronger national environment laws.

For the benefit of the Committee and its consideration of the Bill, we wish to clarify and place on the record the nature of that consultation.

Firstly, as stated in our evidence yesterday, there has been no consultation, formal or otherwise, between the Government and our respective organisations and the PYL Alliance on the Bill.

Secondly, there has been consultation in relation to the Independent Review of the EPBC Act and the proposed national environmental standards. This involved:

- a) the Consultative Group process Professor Samuel established in July 2020 to assist with finalising the Independent Review of the EPBC Act attended on occasion by the Minister but at which the Bill was not discussed;
- b) a meeting between the Minister and representatives of ACF, WWF, HSI, Birdlife Australia and TWS on 25th August following a request from PYL to meet prior to the introduction of the Bill into the lower house but at which the detail of the Bill was not disclosed despite requests;

- c) two stakeholder meetings convened by Minister Ley in October 2020 following the passage of the Bill through the lower house, to which WWF-Australia and HSI were invited as well as a consultant engaged by PYL for consultations with the business community on EPBC reforms. These meetings discussed the potential package of overall reforms to the EPBC Act and the proposed national environmental standards.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

Dermot O'Gorman  
Chief Executive Officer, WWF-Australia

Paul Sullivan  
Chief Executive Officer, BirdLife Australia

Alexia Wellbelove  
Senior Campaign Manager, Humane Society International

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