

Submission to Senate Inquiry - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012.*

I strongly support The Greens Larissa Waters' Bill advocating for Environmental Protection decisions to remain with the Federal Government and not be handed to the States.

My concern is that pro-mining States such as my home state of Queensland will use these decision making powers to put profits ahead of World Heritage sites such as the Great Barrier Reef.

Recent talk of "cutting Green tape" further cements my belief that the environment will suffer if the States are given the power to make decisions. This idea suggests to me that States are simply looking for ways to make it easier and faster to go ahead with potentially environmentally destructive projects.

Discussions about coal ports etc running out through the Great Barrier Reef are unfathomable. These areas must be protected for all time and not destroyed bit by bit in the name of profit.

In QLD alone since the last election I think there is clear evidence that if left to their own devices, the Newman Government will put profit before the environment most times.

I strongly oppose the States being given responsibility for decisions effecting the environment.

Thank you,

Ms. Alix Gibson

Townsville.