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Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Senate Enquiry: The Abbott Government's attacks on Australia's Environment and their Effects on our Natural Heritage and Future Prosperity.

My submission against the Abbott Government's attacks on our Environment, pulses with the certainty that we are Children of our Universe, typically designed by our Solar System which seeded all life on Planet Earth. Through our Minds, Bodies and Chakras, our personal alignment with our Environment is inclusive and totally dependent on: healthy soil (on which we depend for sustenance and to which we will return on dying); clean water (like Planet Earth we need to be 70-80% water); the fire in our belly to ensure our continued survival, our search for Enlightenment and the wellbeing of the beloved; clean air (without which we die in minutes); all surrounded by a thin layer of atmosphere which protects us from harmful energies we cannot endure from the outer Cosmos, or even our creative Sun.

We are given a small moment of time in a moving, evolving creative process, and of uttermost importance to those attuned to these greater dimensions is that they leave this evolving creative process in just as good or better condition than they experienced it.

Each of us are challenged to consider which has the greater importance – this moving, evolving creation, or our personal comfort; and we align our lives accordingly.

Firstly we learn the rules incumbent in human relationships in our family life. Then we learn the rules incumbent in the human body for it to remain healthy. Then we learn the rules incumbent in living sustainably on Planet Earth. If we break any of these basic, inherent rules, we suffer the consequences of either broken relationships, ill health or the revenge of Planet Earth, which also is a living, breathing, pulsing, changing creation and which industrialized man, encouraged by the Abbott Government is forgetting at an alarming rate.

I believe the Abbott Government is breaking the rules we need to abide by to ensure a healthy sustainable home on our living Planet Earth. In this submission, I mean to refer to as many of these as I can remember and I do this to honour our Earth Mother who, like all mothers, poured so much of her being into us in our creation.

Does the Abbott Government think we can survive independently of our environmental foundation in an industrially torn and polluted environment? I think not. Let Mother Earth have her say if we fall into that nonsense.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

a. **Attacks on carbon pricing, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the renewable energy target, the Climate Action Authority and the Climate Commission.**

Carbon has a balanced role to play in our sustainability. The Abbott Government wants to lead us into overdosing on carbon and throwing total systems such as the transpiration of water, into disarray. The majority of world leaders and most Australians are in total agreement on the importance of reducing our carbon emission and Australia, the driest continent on earth, needs to be aware of the forecast consequences, such as extreme weather events of flooding and bushfires.

At the least, the wealthy polluting mining industry should pay for its savagery on our environment, not legislate that our poorer citizens pay for the mistakes of the Abbott Government. Do they think that by eliminating the Agencies who would alert us to the direness of our political program that the people of Australia will remain in ignorance? They will not.

JOB: The Abbott Government claims that this turning our ecologically unique environment into unsustainable mega-coalmines will produce jobs for the people. It is a known fact that the mining industry is the most industrialized industry in the country which supports a minimum of jobs. The extraordinary loss of jobs in the Tourism Industry will overwhelm the pittance of jobs in the mining industry.

Another industry that the Abbott Government ignores and depletes is the Renewable Energy Industry which has shown up in such good light in Spain and California. California has achieved the greatest dependence on renewable energy in any state in the world. Concurrently, their unemployment diminished significantly.

b. **Attacks on federal environmental protection through handing approval powers over to the state governments, which have poor track records and recent environment staff cuts.**

How can the Abbott Government pretend to be serious about this farce? It is like handing the sheep over to the wolves for protection. The responsibility for our National wellbeing must ultimately lie with the Federal Government. It makes me wonder if this job is too hard for the current government, so they think that passing the buck will take the blame off them. Environmental Sustainability must be recognized as a Long-Term National Security.

c. **Attacks on funding for community environment organisations and the Environmental Defenders Offices, abolition of the Biodiversity Fund, and cuts to programs including Landcare and Caring for our Country.**

These cuts on environmental organisations including the EDO are abusive to our democratic rights. For years, the Australian taxpayer has paid for the upkeep of National Parks and places that are precious to us. Now without warning, all this maintenance and support is swept away from us and sold to industry and developers. No wonder Mr Abbott's first public pronouncement was to tell us "Australia is now under new management and we are back in business". Business and the interests of the moneyed minority seem to be this government's only interest. These people make up

only a small percentage of Australia's citizens and interests, by favouring this group so unfairly, the Abbott Government is putting themselves out on a limb.

d. Undermining Australia's compliance with the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, in particular by attacking the Great Barrier Reef and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas.

Under the Abbott Government, the Great Barrier Reef is now clearly under such severe threat from dredging, farming runoff, mining, international shipping and climate change that the United Nations are threatening to lower it's world status. Each one of these five threats to our Reef could have a chapter explaining that one sole problem's enormous threat to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Abbott Government has continued to show contempt for the many Conservation groups who have spent years in negotiations with developers and industries (such as trying to rescind the annexation of land in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) to clear the way from protecting our unique and healthy biodiversity.

e. Any other related matters

- **No Science Minister:** Whilst giving out rather insignificant Science Prizes on the one hand, the Abbott Government has severely attacked science by downgrading the Science Minister, savagely cutting funding for the CSIRO, and termination of the Climate Authority.
- **Threat to terminate the National Water Commission:** This can be seen as a greater threat to our National stability with anticipated bullying tactics by the bigger companies over the rights of townships and ordinary Australians. CSG mining is also seen to be responsible for poisoning our aquifers with the rights to mine in the areas of our Great Artesian Basin.
- **Galilee Basin coal-mining and Abbott Point dredging approvals** have been handed out with a minimum of public consultation. This mega-coalmine will cart its uncovered coal trucks over windswept landscapes which are home to small towns, schools, hospitals and farms. It will use our precious underground water at the mine which will become highly contaminated by toxins, and have nowhere to go – until the area floods. Then the dumping of dredged acid-sulphate spoil on land will also have the unmonitored threat of seeping back to the Great Barrier Reef in times of torrential rain.
- **The Abbott Government has stopped the right of citizens who are disadvantaged** by encroaching mining operations to complain of their lost rights.
- **Population Control:** Australia's natural population increase is the highest in First World Countries and getting higher. People are encouraged to blame immigration for this burgeoning increase, but that is wrong. Our immigration intake is on par with the rest of the First World Countries. Instead of condemning all parents of 6 year old and older children to become self-funding, as the Abbott Government considered, our population control could be contained by supporting the first two children of all couples, then requiring that all further

children beyond two be funded by the parents who made this choice. This burgeoning population increase in a generation who expect higher comforts, is putting too great a stress on our environment.

Concluding Comment:

At a time when Australia leads the world in her large Environmental Footprint, as well as her individual personal wealth, the Abbott Government is making a big 'budget deficit' claim to suggest we are on the brink of bankruptcy. This budget deficit is caused by the high rate of lending by our Big 4 Banks. It can be controlled.

We all live on a finite planet with finite resources, and many nations, including Australia, are using up more than their share, not only in regards to the current World Population, but also in regards to all future generations. We have to learn to live within our means, and I pray that the first to be asked to pull their belts in will be the high-powered Tax Avoiders, the elite few of our highly paid CEOs and the golden handshakes given to politicians after their term of office.