

**SUBMISSION TO Inquiry: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012.**

Dear Inquiry members

If we are to take a scientific approach to environmental protection & biodiversity then it is quite plain that we need at least a national approach to management & its associated legislation.

Environmental & ecological systems do not stop at state boundaries. The River Murray does not flow in one state. The experience of the last decades in trying to obtain a plan which will enhance the quality of the River Murray environment is just one example of why it is essential to have a national approach to the environment.

However, if we want severe degradation in Australia's environment & chaos in its "protection" then by all means pass to the states the powers for environmental & biodiversity management. In twenty years' time or less we will be asking "What on Earth were we doing?"

Yours sincerely

Adrian Watkins