



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

25 May 2018

Dear Chair

Submission to Inquiry into the *Water Amendment Bill 2018*

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) was established over sixty years ago to promote national parks and nature conservation. The health of river and wetland systems is an important and intrinsic aspect of the health and wellbeing of nature, wildlife and human communities. Accordingly, NPA has consistently argued for improved water management for the long term.

The adoption of the federal *Water Act* which mandated the development of the Murray Darling Basin Plan in order to address growing problems of declining health of the river and wetland systems was welcomed by NPA.

NPA has been dismayed by subsequent changes to the legislation that undermine achievement of the original intention and considers that the current Bill further diminishes the potential to restore the health of the rivers and wetlands.

NPA draws your attention to many aspects of concern, as set out in the Briefing Note and Key Issues Summary prepared by the Environmental Defenders Office, now on their website - see https://www.edonsw.org.au/water_amendment_bill_2018

It would be tragic if all the investment to date, of time, research, good will and substantial public funds, were now to be squandered.

NPA urges the Committee to recognise the seriously adverse implications of these amendments and reject the Bill accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Alix Goodwin
Chief Executive Officer