

SUBMISSION
by Claire Ogden

I support the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012.

Now more than ever it is important to protect our eco-systems not only for environmental reasons but also for long term economic reasons. Handing the responsibility of precious environmental areas over to the states will only lead to the mismanagement of these precious areas which we absolutely cannot afford to lose. History tells us this as state governments have time and time again have been willing to destroy places of environmental significance before the federal government stepped in.

Biodiversity is extremely important and we need to ensure the power to protect natural areas is in federal hands. Our environment is too precious to be passed off to mining companies and big business. Once places of environmental significance are destroyed there is no going back and this is why we must be so careful in managing them. All Australians should have a say in environmental protection not just those who live in the state in which a place of natural significance exists. For these reasons environmental protection must be a federal area of responsibility.