

I would like to submit that I believe the commonwealth powers for the environment should remain the same.

Ceding power to the individual states would be a mistake as they are more likely to be influenced by business concerns that have only a wish to expand business and maximise profits. This mentality is at odds, many times, with the needs of the environment which only has the commonwealth to look out for its welfare.

There are many pressing environmental issues in Australia and we need a strong hand in dealing with those wishing to subsume the needs of the environment. We have a large network of protected areas and world heritage listed sites that are the envy of many countries but these sites need constant protection.

As with the Franklin river Dam sometimes we need the commonwealth to step in and control environmental situations that have been controlled by vested interests and a weak State government.

Australia is a beautiful, rich and diverse continent and as such requires that we maintain a strong watch over its environmental treasures and that watch will be severely weakened should the Commonwealth give up any of its watchdog powers.

I hope my submission is useful in helping you determine the best way to move forward on this matter.

Yours

James Bellis