

To: [Committee_EC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Wildlife Habitat Protection
Date: Saturday, 4 October 2014 3:28:21 PM

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications,

I write to bring to your attention my concerns as a citizen, a tax payer, a voter, an undergraduate of Environmental Studies and a mother of two. My concerns are for the Environment, specifically within the State of Queensland.

My immediate environment in South East Queensland is under threat of massive industrial and residential development and it is a critical wildlife corridor that connects the Flinders Ranges to the Koorawatha corridor via the Greenbank Military Training Area grounds and further to the South through Spring Mountain Reserve on Oxley Creek and down into the Scenic Rim, Lamington National Park, the Binna Burra Ranges, and into the upper Nerang River catchment area. This region is a vital habitat site for numerous endemic and iconic flora and fauna species and many are on the brink of extinction, specifically the Koala.

My children, my family, my extended community organisations and I appreciate, value and want our flora and fauna to be protected before it is lost and made extinct forever. I am asking you as my Government to help sustain these endemic species and protect the interconnected corridors, and increase the riparian zones around all catchment waterways so that our iconic wildlife can survive in a natural habitat that is maintaining the function and production ecosystem services that our environment and society needs.

If the remaining natural habitats are not protected and the remaining fragmented wildlife corridors are not reconnected back to other wildlife corridors, through our catchment riparian zones, all of Queensland's native species and many of Australia's native flora and fauna species will not be able to survive as we adapt to climate change. It would sadden me immensely if all efforts weren't made to protect our environment while we still can as the museum is not the right environment for children to be entirely educated about nature and although zoo's are good as a means of preserving the genetics of species on the brink of extinction, they do not provide the same experience for children to learn about nature like they can when they engage with nature.

Please protect these regions that are vital wildlife corridors before they are lost to CSG mining and development or landscape change and catchment impacts from industrial and or residential development.

Please protect Australia's iconic species and the environments of all endemic Australian species as they depend on these for survival and existence.

Too many animals over the past 227 years have been lost to habitat loss, invasive species, road fatalities and or other social pressures. As my Government's Department of Environment I ask you to protect my State's remaining wildlife habitats and do all you can to sustain Australia's wildlife species both terrestrial and aquatic.

Please start by building wildlife bridges over major roads that connect transient species to other protected areas. Please build Mangrove habitat areas and biofiltration systems along Australia's coast line, like the one that exists on the Southport Broadwater Parklands in

Queensland. By doing this Australia's Government would be improving the quality of and removing gross pollutants from the waters that are returning to the sea from our storm water drains and other outlets. In addition you would be creating Mangrove Nursery habitat areas for Australia's fisheries the collaboration and support of all Government departments would be supporting the Australian Department of Environment to protect and preserve and sustain and replenish Australia's endemic coastal fish stocks and species that various State Government reports show are almost exhausted.

Most IMPORTANTLY I would like to bring to your attention the Abbott Government's attacks on Australia's environment, and this has negative impacts and effects on our natural heritage and future prosperity, including:

- a. attacks on carbon pricing, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the renewable energy target, the Climate Change Authority and the Climate Commission;
- b. attacks on federal environmental protection through handing approval powers over to state governments, which have poor track records and recent environment staff cuts;
- 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;
- 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; and
- e. international shame as Australia's Prime Minister is not; acting in 'good governance; doing enough to reduce climate change; adhering to the Kyoto protocol, engaging with all Australian Stakeholders; increasing public participation when making environmental decisions that affect the Australian Society including science citizens and eco citizens, or be transparent about all of his dealings with inter government departments in Local and State and Federal Agencies and or business citizens and the investments that have been made to them for sponsorship.

I want my Government to protect what is left of Australia's Wildlife before it is entirely lost.

I have seen a "PEET" advertisement sign on the corner of New Beith Road, New Beith on the Oxley Creek side and parallel to the Spring Mountain Road that leads to Spring Mountain Reserve, in Queensland and its advertising the Spring Mountain Shopping centre 4km from the sign.

The sign for the Spring Mountain Reserve Shopping Centre promotes a Tavern, Woolworths, Vet, Bakery, and more. I know the Spring Mountain Reserve is a wetland and a protected "Land for Wildlife" AREA. The Total Economic Value of the site AND A RECREATION USE SITE, with intrinsic values, bequest values, existence values, and it supports the habitat of Tawny Frog Mouth Owls, Jabiru, Herons, Kangaroos, Wallabies, Turtles expansa and Signata, Its fauna includes many threatened species and numerous community members have been revegetating there for a number of years to sequest carbon, increase the ecosystem services of the site, and give them a sense of belonging. When Josephine was in my tummy I planted over 1000 trees there alongside girl guide groups from Jimboomba and Rachel Booth and other staff from LCC. That That park was the site of Josie and Sam's Birthday party this year and Josie and Sam refer to it as "their park"

THE SPRING MOUNTAIN RESERVE IS NOT A GOOD LOCATION FOR THE SHOPPING CENTRE AS ITS ON THE ALLUVIAL FLOOD PLAIN OF THE UPPER OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT AREA AND IT SUPPORTS VULNERABLE AND CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF AUSTRALIAN FLORA AND FAUNA.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Julie Lawson.