



## **Australian Government**

Australian Government response to the  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation report:

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment  
(Standing) Bill 2015 [Provisions]

May 2024

## Response

### Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015 be passed.

### Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### Dissenting Recommendation 1 (ALP)

Labor Senators recommend that the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015 not be passed.

### Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### Dissenting Recommendation 1 (Greens)

That the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015 not be passed.

### Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### Dissenting Recommendation 2 (Greens)

Expand the rights of ordinary Australians to enforce the law where their governments have failed by allowing merits review of approval decisions rather than only judicial review.

### Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 3 (Greens)**

Prohibit costs orders in public interest cases under our national environment laws or implement a presumption that each party bears their own costs.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 4 (Greens)**

Remove the requirement to give security for costs and undertakings for damages in public interest cases under our national environment laws.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 5 (Greens)**

Limit the Minister's discretion to approve environmentally destructive developments, and require that decisions under our national environment laws are consistent with the precautionary principle and consider cumulative impacts.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 6 (Greens)**

Expand scope of our national environment laws by creating a "trigger" for all aspects of the environment when the impact is significant, including water, forests, global warming and national parks.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 7 (Greens)**

Restore the \$5.2 million in funding cut from voluntary environment, sustainability and heritage organisations in the 2014 Budget.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 8 (Greens)**

Restore federal funding to Environment Defenders Offices.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 9 (Greens)**

Reverse the 26% staff cuts at the Department of Environment which are currently being implemented.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

**Dissenting Recommendation 10 (Greens)**

Abandon the plan to hand federal environment powers to State, Territory and local governments.

**Response**

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.