

I am writing a submission to address the very serious issue of environmental protection, both National and Global. I have listed some of the most important issues below in bullet point format.

- ACF and other conservation groups have pushed for a national EPA for many years and we welcome the government's commitment to implement this important reform. BUT it is important this is done well – the new EPA needs to be strong, independent and accountable to ensure that laws are enforced and decision making is free from political interference.
- Key changes to the current Bill which would help deliver this include a board made up of people with suitable qualifications and experience. The Board would appoint the CEO, set strategy and direction for the EPA, and make sure it is doing its job.
- Communities are too easily brushed off when they raise the alarm about destruction in our bush. The EPA should be required to:
 - Act on complaints that someone is taking an action that harms threatened species habitat or other protected matters without seeking an approval; and
 - Respond to requests to use powerful new Environment Protections Orders to protect the environment where someone is breaking the law or failing to comply with an approvals
- The government should consider other reforms to the EPBC Act that can be made now, rather than delaying important improvements to nature protection. Key changes that could be made without further delay include:
 - Clearly defining unacceptable impacts, ruling out destruction of critical habitat and other unacceptable impacts upfront rather than allowing these proposals even get into assessment and approval system.
 - Strengthening community rights and consultation opportunities under the EPBC Act.
 - Halting unregulated deforestation by repealing exemptions for “continuous use” and native forest logging under Regional Forest Agreements.
 - Fixing the blind spot in our current national nature protections laws which contain no explicit requirement to consider the climate harm caused by new fossil fuel projects put forward for approval.

We have a great opportunity to prevent an extinction crisis and protect the health of the planet. Thank you for your consideration of the issues I have raised.

Yours Sincerely

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother, teacher, homeowner and working member of the Australian community.

I am writing to call for a complete overhaul of our failing national nature protection laws. I see this as an urgent priority. Reforms to the EPBC are desperately needed.

Conservation groups have pushed for a national EPA for many years without action. I welcome the government's commitment to implement this important reform.

It is important that the new EPA needs to be strong, independent and accountable to ensure that laws are enforced, and decision making is free from political interference.

Key changes to the current Bill could help deliver change. It requires a board made up of people with suitable qualifications and experience. The Board could then appoint an appropriate CEO, set strategies and direction for the EPA, and make sure it is doing its job.

Historically, community members are too easily brushed off when they raise the alarm about destruction in our bush. Therefore, the EPA should be required to:

- Act on complaints that persons are taking actions that harm threatened species habitat or other protection matters without seeking an approval; and
- Respond to requests to use powerful new Environment Protections Orders to protect the environment where persons are breaking the law or failing to comply with approvals

The government should consider other reforms to the EPBC Act that can be made now, rather than delaying important improvements to nature protection. Key changes that could be made without further delay include:

- Clearly defining unacceptable impacts, ruling out destruction of critical habitat and other unacceptable impacts upfront rather than allowing these proposals even get into assessment and approval system.
- Strengthening community rights and consultation opportunities under the EPBC Act.
- Halting unregulated deforestation by repealing exemptions for "continuous use" and native forest logging under Regional Forest Agreements.
- Fixing the blind spot in our current national nature protections laws which contain no explicit requirement to consider the climate harm caused by new fossil fuel projects put forward for approval.

I am seeking a clearer commitment and time frame for delivering the full reform package that is needed.

I look forward to action on these issues.

Yours sincerely,