

Opening Statement: Nature Repair Market  
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The so-called nature repair market is the last in a long line of at least 30 years of failed ideological experiments we've witnessed that are often put forward by those seeking to diminish the role of Government in protecting and restoring the environment.

Somehow, as our environmental challenges get larger, the ideas emanating from Government about the role of Government have gotten smaller. And we need to turn that around.

The Wilderness Society don't want this Bill to pass. We hope this Bill is the last diversionary policy expedition like this and we can return to what we know works. That is, things like decent regulation and enforcement, and the genuine public funding of public and private conservation. The overall trend of Australian biodiversity is rapid decline. It is at crisis levels. But where there is serious conservation effort the results are positive.

Biodiversity is a public good. Its protection and restoration is exactly the sort of thing we all know governments are for. Government's are the best lever we have and it's a job the public expect the Government to do.

Today's headlines of the imminent financial collapse of London's privatised water system show that when the government devolves its role in managing natural resources to the private sector then failure follows.

The Wilderness Society does not want to import all those financialisation risks into nature conservation when we know that straightforward government action can and should deliver.