

**Submission re Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015**

Dear Senators,

I oppose the amendment.

I have been a member of conservation societies for over 30 years and have been involved in several campaigns. I have learnt that at times proponents of developments do not have all of the facts, and have not done sufficient research into the facts. The decision making authorities often do not know the facts and rely on conservation groups to provide them.

One example is the Broadbeach development in Inverloch which was developed on a floodplain. The proponent suggested a bund be installed around the site to protect it from flooding. The local conservation society objected at VCAT and the commissioner found that the bund would not prevent the flooding. The site remains an undeveloped eyesore.

There was a proposal to develop a marina and housing development at Maher's landing on Anderson Inlet. The proponent had brochures showing keeled yachts. Anderson Inlet is an estuary and the shifting tidal sands means that keeled yachts would not be able to be used due to the sand banks and shallow water. After this was raised by the conservation society at a Shire Council arranged mediation meeting, the proponent let the application lapse.

My point is that the community cannot rely on the decision making authorities to obtain or seek the required environmental data and issues, so the ability of conservation groups to make submissions and bring actions on behalf of affected communities is essential.

yours sincerely

Wendy Davies