

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Making Marine Parks Accountable) Bill 2012

Introduced into the Senate on 13 September 2012

By: Senator Colbeck

Purpose of the bill

1.2 This bill amends the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* relating to proclamations declaring an area of sea, or an area of land and sea as a Commonwealth reserve. The bill will:

- require the Minister to establish an independent scientific reference panel and a stakeholder advisory group for each affected region and to commission an independent assessment of the social and economic impact of any proposed proclamation;
- require the Minister and Director to report on scientific advice, stakeholders' views and an independent social and economic impact assessment before proclamations are made; and
- make proclamations subject to disallowance.

1.3 **The committee has no substantive comments in relation to this bill as it does not appear to raise any human rights concerns and the statement of compatibility appears adequate.**