



16 November 2020

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment
(Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining
Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020**

Conservation Council SA is an independent, non-profit and strictly non-party political organisation representing around 60 of South Australia's environment and conservation organisations and their 90,000 members.

The Conservation Council SA does not support the current reporting date and believes it must be extended to allow for the public release of the Final Report of the EPBC review before any further discussion is undertaken.

Key Issues

- This is an extremely poor process. Legislative reform should not be rushed through prior to the release and consideration of the final report of the Samuel Review of the EPBC Act.
- Any EPBC legislation amendments should include an independent regulator and strong national environmental standards, put together as a package to Parliament.
- Any new national environmental standards should be made available for public scrutiny before being put to Parliament.
- Establishing this committee to have hearings and report in only two weeks is a box ticking exercise, and does not enable proper scrutiny or accountability.

The Conservation Council SA has been actively engaged in the EPBC Act review process through the Places You Love Alliance, contributing to formal and informal consultations, and working extensively with interested member groups, the public and private landholders.

We urge the Government to bring forward a full package of reforms to be considered by Parliament together, including a full suite of strong legally enforceable National Environmental Standards; an independent regulator for compliance and enforcement; and the robust accountability and transparency requirements for government decision making.

Please do not hesitate to contact Craig Wilkins on _____ or
_____ should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Wilkins
Chief Executive