

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012

I am concerned about the recent move by the Federal Government to remove Federal approval powers under the EPBC Act and support the call for a Senate Inquiry into this important issue.

My concerns are fundamentally due to my total lack of confidence in the State Governments to protect places and species of significance - with the current batch of State Governments particularly fuelling this concern. The two levels of approval mean that where State Governments are overly reliant on revenues from environmentally destructive industries such as mining and forestry, our special places and threatened biodiversity will have a second chance at survival.

I am also concerned about the role of big business in working with State Governments to present this issue at COAG. Where there profit motive of companies will drive more and more pressure on our environment, we need stronger not weaker legal protections and mechanisms in place.

Nationally listed threatened species, species with International obligations for protection, threatened communities, and important sites such as Australia's World Heritage areas all deserve better than what our State Governments have been delivering. Please instigate a Senate Inquiry into this important matter and do not remove Federal powers of approval under the EPBC Act.

Yours Sincerely
Susan Morley