

Dear Committee members,

I would like to record my serious concerns if the Commonwealth Government relinquishes its environmental protection powers to the states and territories. I believe that all other things being equal, which they seldom are of course, the citizens of Australia can have far greater faith in the Commonwealth Government, rather than individual state and territory governments, acting in the long term interests of the environment and hence the human race rather than in the short term economic interests of privileged minorities. I request that you do all that you can to ensure that the Commonwealth Government retains strong environmental protection laws, including the right to override state and territory decisions when they are not in the best interests of the environment.

Yours sincerely

Peter Sainsbury

19 December 2012