



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the
Environment report:

Streamlining environmental legislation: Inquiry into
streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and
one stop shops

May 2024

Response

Recommendation 1

a. The Committee notes the success of the Commonwealth's pursuit of concluding agreements with states and territories on one stop shops. The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth continue to conclude bilateral assessment agreements and bilateral approval agreements with outstanding state and territory jurisdictions as quickly as possible.

b. The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment ensure that reasonable statutory time frames—that is, within or about the time frames currently set out in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999—are established in each bilateral assessment agreement and bilateral approval agreement that the Commonwealth concludes with each state and territory.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment ensure that each bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the states and territories require the implementation of risk-based terms of reference for environmental impact statements.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment commence a review and work with key stakeholders to streamline and improve the efficiency of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme to reduce duplication.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Government amend the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010 (Cth) to remove any requirement for routine lighting assessments of buildings. Further, that the Government amend the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010 (Cth) to ensure a lighting assessment is only required at a point of major change to lighting infrastructure.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment, in collaboration with the newly formed Threatened Species Commissioner and the relevant state and territory regulators, work to develop:

- a common approach to the listing of endangered and threatened species, and delisting of species that are no longer endangered;
- a single national list of endangered and threatened species which is regularly updated to reflect the reality of the contemporary environment and the latest available science; and
- a process that removes unnecessary duplication of science in assessments on threatened species and proactively assist jurisdictions to ensure timely and accurate considerations of threatened species in any geographical area.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends the Government take action to further streamline the ongoing enforcement and maintenance responsibilities of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority to apply to offshore petroleum projects which were approved prior to February 2014.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the Department of the Environment investigate methods of accreditation—including the relevant standards for accreditation—for environmental practitioners and contractors to enable the establishment of a professional standards body.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment work with state and territory counterparts through Council of Australian Government processes to reduce, wherever possible, duplication between National Environment Protection Measures and related regulations, policies and programs within the states and territories.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment continue to undertake strategic assessments with the states and territories and work proactively with industry, environmental groups and state and territory counterparts to identify further opportunities to carry out strategic assessments.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment coordinate with other relevant federal, state and territory agencies as well as interested non-government bodies to:

- work towards making publicly available all environmental data gathered by government and non-government entities through environmental assessment processes;
- work towards establishing a central, easily accessible repository of environmental data held by various government and non-government agencies more broadly; and
- work to reduce requirements that cause duplication of existing unnecessary environmental data.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth continue to work with established Council of Australian Governments processes to advocate for harmonisation of environmental regulation throughout all state and territory jurisdictions. Further, that Council of Australian Governments processes continue to be used to remove duplicate environmental regulation and processes.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 12

That the Department of the Environment update its publicly available advice to prospective proponents under EPBC Act environmental assessment and approval processes to ensure that the option of having a pre-referral meeting with departmental officers is stated clearly and prominently.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 13

That, in consultation with industry stakeholders, the Government work across all relevant Commonwealth and state or territory agencies to review the range of environmental reporting required of industry, and investigate the possibility of developing standardised and centralised environmental databases and/or standardised measurement and formatting requirements.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.