

Senate Environment and Communications Committee

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

Please ensure that Commonwealth Government oversight is retained to preserve as much as is possible of our already debased environmental heritage.

Too often we have seen state governments failing to protect our natural heritage, particularly when valuable resources can be extracted .

Too often we have seen dubious, misleading or incomplete EIS's submitted by, for example, mining interests, accepted without appropriate scrutiny or question.

Too often, projects have been "fast-tracked" by state governments keen for revenue, with no thought for the environmental consequences.

Too often, state governments have found it just too easy to classify a project as of special or state significance in order to avoid environmental assessments which would otherwise have been required.

Too often, state governments have effectively conspired to avoid reasonable environmental assessments of projects in which they have a stake, and are therefore in a conflict of interest.

Respectfully,

Peter Gillbank