



# South East Australian Naturalists' Association Inc

ABN 23 918 778 150 Incorporation No A0044963D  
Formerly Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association.  
Website: <http://home.vicnet.au/~seana>

## Committee

### President

Helen Langley

### Vice President

Noel Schleiger

### Secretary

Phil Rayment

### Treasurer

Denis Thurgood

### Web-master:

Ern Perkins

14 January, 2013

Chair and Members,  
Senate Committee of Inquiry into retention of Federal Government approval powers  
under the EPBC Act  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA

Dear Senators,

I am writing on behalf of the South East Australian Naturalists' Association (SEANA) Inc. to convey this association's view that it is vitally important that the Federal Government retains its power to have the final say on developments that impact on nationally significant environmental matters. Without wishing to get into issues of the division of powers between federal and state levels of government, it is clear that decisions on environmental matters taken at state level can have consequences for rare and endangered species or threatened EVCs/ ecosystems, and so should be subject to review and final approval at national level.

SEANA is an umbrella association of some twenty-six field naturalists clubs across Victoria and adjoining regions of New South Wales and South Australia. Its key purpose is to increase knowledge of, and encourage the preservation and protection of, our natural environment. Its member clubs have a proud history of achievements to these ends over, in some cases, more than one hundred years. With this in mind, we hope that our views would be given consideration.

SEANA is aware that your committee is considering a bill introduced into the Senate by Senator Waters – the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012*. This association expresses its strong support for the intent of this bill, and I was instructed to convey this support to you by resolution of the SEANA Committee of Management meeting held in Melbourne on 12 January 2013.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Philip Rayment  
Secretary,  
SEANA Inc.