



PO Box 2569,  
SOUTHPORT 4215

23 January 2013

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary:

### Approvals Under EPBC Act

This society opposes any surrender or grant of approval powers, under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC), by the Federal Government to the states.

It is important that national standards apply to environmental assessments. These often involve issues which impact species & regions which transcend state boundaries.

By all means, let national standards be developed. However, unfortunately, political & developmental pressures tend to be magnified at state level. It is important that EPBC remain as a reserve or appeal buffer so that short-term goals and greed are constrained & filtered.

The natural environment is essential to health, beauty and many aspects of our economy. History shows it is fragile and can be irreversibly damaged by inappropriate impacts.

Yours faithfully,

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Sally Spain,  
President