

Submission re Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Dear Committee Secretary of the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication,

My submission asks that the Federal Government please does not 'gut' our environmental protection laws by passing this power over to the States.

Only the big business lobby could want the Federal Environmental powers handed over to the States and their main interest is self-interest and exploitation. If we had had States protecting the Franklin River, the Alpine National Park or the Mary River in recent years the rivers would have been unnecessarily dammed and the Park would be grazed out of biodiversity by now.

Now the Great Barrier Reef and our coastal rivers are all under threat by the States unholy need for more money. Of course this is pushed by the citizen's unholy need for greater comfort. Our population is already overtaxing the eco-system beyond its ability to replenish itself, so we are milking the resources of poorer countries. When and where will it end? More and more thinking Australians are not wanting this chain of events leading to degradation. Our leaders have to show the way.

Our Reef and beautiful coastal rivers are too precious to lose, we don't want them turned into toxic water which kills all the beautiful life forms that live in it. Mankind are not stand-alones. We cannot live without a healthy biodiversity and that is where our true wealth and health lies.

Yours truly  
Juanita M Johnston