

Dear Inquiry Members,

I strongly support the Federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 to provide Federal oversight of the impacts of coal and coal seam gas mining on water resources has been referred to a Senate Inquiry. passed quickly through the Senate.

I support that the bilateral approval provisions of the EPBC Act cannot apply to coal and coal seam gas developments that impact on water resources, and that there have been some improvements to the exemptions.

I urge you to ensure that the exemptions contained in the Bill are minimised, and that key projects, such as the Arrow Coal Seam Gas project in Qld and Camden in western Sydney, are not exempt from it. Therefore, we would still like to see minor amendments to remove s22 2 b) and d) if possible.

I support that there are other amendments that would substantially improve the Bill, that may be required in the future, such as:

- Amending the Bill to cover all unconventional gas mining, including shale gas and tight gas, and unconventional coal mining
- Strengthening the role of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee
- Defining significant impacts on water resources
- Introducing a set of requirements for the Minister to consider when making decisions on water resource impacts
- Including a requirement for bioregional assessments prior to approval.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics show us that Australia continues to lose biodiversity. We need to address this issue now and this bill is a great step to assist in Australia turning the tide on biodiversity and addressing climate change.

Kind regards,