

4<sup>th</sup> April 2013

*Reference:*

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]*

I strongly support the amendments to the EPBC proposed by Tony Windsor MP, and propose that they should be accepted and passed without further changes.

I am astounded that provisions to ensure water quality and quantity are not already enshrined at the highest levels. Clearly, experience shows that environmental concerns regarding water can not be left to project managers or State government control where mining projects (of all hues) are concerned.

There has been a cavalier disregard for water shown by current and previous NSW State Governments wrt mining and CSG projects. Approved projects with 'conditions' still rely upon monitoring staff to make sure the right thing is done, and since monitoring staff have been drastically reduced in NSW (especially in the Office of Water) and the number of applicable projects vastly increased, the public has become de facto whistle-blowers on these water polluting industries. Experience shows that 'self monitoring' by project proponents just does not work. Cumulative impacts are also not taken into account as if such polluting projects work in splendid isolation to the rest of the environment.

Thankfully, the Federal government does not think it is too much to ask to protect water from industries that have a very poor record on acute and long term water management, indeed water was not even mentioned in the NSW Mining Act until recently.

Tony Windsor MP is to be commended for pursuing these amendments to the EPBC supporting future water quality supplies to all Australians.

Pauline Roberts