

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

31 May 2023

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nature Repair Market Bill as an individual who cares deeply about nature.

This Bill should be withdrawn. It will not serve to repair nature. The market is killing life on Earth: relying on the same market, especially a voluntary one, to repair nature is farcical. Business as usual is killing us so another approach is needed.

If corporations, governments and land owners are not willing to protect what is needed now when we increasingly face the devastating harms of the climate and biodiversity emergencies, this proposed bill based on a voluntary market will not address these massive failures.

The Australian government has more than enough money to protect and restore nature and should invest in this restoration rather than subsidizing gas and coal projects (\$11 Billion p.a.) or nuclear-powered submarines. The climate and biodiversity emergencies are the biggest threats we face and therefore should be dealt with by the government with urgency, adequate funding and meaningful action.

Offset schemes have not worked in Australia or elsewhere, as there is too much greenwashing and not enough monitoring or accountability. The water market is a clear example where Australia has commodified a natural resource, water, which has led to more harm to the environment while the rich have enriched themselves without any regard for the environment.

The Clean Energy Regulator lacks the expertise to manage this voluntary market and its record on the carbon market is one of utter failure, corruption and lack of integrity.

Nature should not be commodified. It is priceless and supports all life on Earth. Commodifying nature risks favoring certain species over others or certain ecosystems over others. All species and ecosystems are important in supporting life on earth. It also risks simplifying ecosystems, which are complex.

This Bill is terrible policy and will be a massive waste of tax payer money. The government should develop strong environmental protection laws with clear goals with close monitoring and frequent reporting on the outcomes so that the public can have trust that their tax dollars are restoring ecosystems and the animals that depend on them.

I urge Committee members to report back that this Bill should be canned and replaced with very strict environmental protection laws and policies.

Best regards,

Louise Taylor

"To be good farmers, we need to be good foresters. If we just put as much effort into forest rehabilitation as we put into lawns and as much capital as we put into wars, we could rehabilitate the whole world in a very short time" Geoff Lawton, permaculture designer and teacher, 2017