

To: Committee, EC (SEN) □ Inquiry into the EPBC Amendment Bill 2013 [Provisions]

I strongly support the proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. I believe the federal government should be able to apply its own environmental assessment standards to states and territories and that the federal government should be able to override state and territory governments if those standards are not met by the Coal and Coal Seam Gas industry.

The proposed 'water trigger' is absolutely necessary to protect our most valuable resource as states and territories alone cannot be trusted with such a responsibility. This was made clear on the recent Four Corners program in relation to the gross lack of proper process with regard to environmental impact assessments of the Santos gas project in Southern Queensland.

The mining industry will complain that the proposed amendments will lead to more 'red tape' and a tighter regulatory framework; this is what the industry needs, for there is nothing more important in life than clean and safe water. If more red tape and tighter regulation protects our water then so be it.

The environmental impact of each gas and coal project should be *independently* assessed and if the project is deemed unsafe to the environment, agricultural industries, peoples' health and especially our water then the project should not go ahead and the federal government should have the powers to withhold approval for such projects. Thus the proposed amendments have my utmost support.

Kind Regards,

Alice Nagy