

I have a very significant concern about the proposed amendments to the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act** that aim to accelerate approval processes.

I believe that the EPBC Act 1999 remains one of Australia's most robust frameworks for safeguarding threatened and endangered species and the habitats that sustain them. Its strong protections are essential for preserving our nation's unique biodiversity. Diluting these safeguards would undermine decades of scientific and community-driven effort and could erode public confidence in the legislation.

Key reasons why the EPBC Act should **remain unchanged—or even be strengthened**:

1. **Scientific Rigor:** The Act's rigorous assessment process ensures that any development projects are evaluated against the best available ecological data.
2. **Social License:** Australians expect their government to prioritize environmental stewardship over short-term industrial gains. Weakening the Act would jeopardize that trust.
3. **Long-Term Economic Value:** Healthy ecosystems underpin sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and fisheries; protecting them is an investment in our future prosperity.
4. **International Obligations:** The Act aligns with Australia's commitments under global biodiversity conventions. Any rollback could damage our international reputation.

Given these considerations, I believe any proposal that places industry interests ahead of our precious biodiversity is unacceptable. If there is genuine intent to reform the EPBC Act, it should be done transparently, with extensive public consultation, and—if necessary—subject to a national referendum. As understood the proposed Government amendments will weaken the EPBC act and therefore I **oppose the amendment that is being advocated for the EPBC Act** .