

Monday, 15 September 2025



To whom it may concern

Re.: Investing in cheaper, cleaner energy and the net zero transformation

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act that aim to accelerate approval processes. This seems ludicrous given how poorly Australia has fared in the Biodiversity Crisis. We lead the world in mammal extinctions and are up there for birds, frogs and reptiles. Paving paradise for the sake of productivity will destroy the intergeneration equity of nature experiences our children deserve (Hayward et al. 2022). Our biodiversity, natural environment and indigenous cultural heritage are the only things that make this country unique, yet fast tracking development to make us more like the US or UK will devastate that.

The EPBC Act 1999 remains a decent framework for safeguarding threatened and endangered species and the habitats that sustain them, although it is tepid at best. Its 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.

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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.

I respectfully ask that you oppose any amendment that weakens the EPBC Act and instead champion measures that reinforce its protective provisions.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Yours sincerely

Matt

Hayward, M. W., N. F. V. Meyer, N. Balkenhol, C. T. Beranek, C. K. Bugir, K. V. Bushell, A. Callen, A. J. Dickman, A. S. Griffin, P. M. Haswell, L. G. Howell, C. A. Jordan, K. Klop-Toker, R. J. Moll, R. A. Montgomery, T. Mudumba, L. Osipova, S. Périquet, R. Reyna-Hurtado, W. J. Ripple, L. P. Sales, F. J. Weise, R. R. Witt, and P. A. Lindsey. 2022. Intergenerational Inequity: Stealing the Joy and Benefits of Nature From Our Children. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 10.

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