

I wish to make a submission in response to the Productivity Commission's Interim Report, Investing in Cheaper, Cleaner Energy and the Net Zero Transformation (2025), and places the Commonwealth and all participating entities on legal notice. The recommendations proposed will lead to a fundamental reconfiguration of Australia's environmental governance framework. The recommendations proposed will Replace or circumvent core protections established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) ("EPBC Act") this is unlawful, unconstitutional, and strategically constructed to present deregulation as administrative efficiency. The Commission's proposal includes the replacement of EPBC Act assessment 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. 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.

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