

# SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XF8Y-V

## **Name**

Amy Thomas

## **State or Territory**

Queensland

## **Areas of Interest**

The objects of the Act; Threatened species; Environmental Impact Assessments; Great Barrier Reef; Climate change; Compliance and enforcement; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation; Water;

## **Attachment provided**

Yes

## **Do you give permission for your submission to be published?**

Yes - with my name and/or organisation (if included)

## SUBMISSION RESPONSES

**This submission was provided as an attachment only. The attachment is provided on the following pages of this document.**

To whom it may concern,

Today I am writing in response to the upcoming review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC).

I am not rich.

I am not powerful.

I am just an ordinary citizen who holds grave concerns over the future of Australia's biodiversity and wildlife. My concern is founded by my personal experience of rescuing sick and injured koalas in my local community. Unfortunately, due to lack of foresight and political will on all levels, the koala population in my local area is at a tipping point and unless changes are made soon I don't see their being a healthy koala population in the future.

It's heart-breaking.

Every time a dead koala is found by the road, it's just a reminder that this creature, a symbol of our beautiful country, is coming closer and closer to being wiped of the map.

Koalas, in addition to many other animals in Australia, are under threat for many reasons, one of which is the level of deforestation in this country. It is projected that by 2030, 3 million hectares of forest will be bulldozed in Eastern Australia. 85% of our plants and 84% of its mammals are found ONLY in Australia which is incredible but also more reason for the current environmental laws to be reviewed and strengthened. (reference: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/05/global-deforestation-hotspot-3m-hectares-of-australian-forest-to-be-lost-in-15-years>).

Our current laws are failing. And I strongly believe that we need to do something about it before our unique biodiversity is lost forever. The level of deforestation in Australia is mind-boggling, especially given the risks we face with the impending Climate Crisis.

As a concerned citizen who loves my country and it's amazing wildlife, I believe we need:

1. To enshrine a new National Environment Act that contains real safeguards against the clearing of land, especially of endangered species habitat
2. Legislation that sets out clear rights of appeal and consolation for communities.
3. Establish an independent Environment Protection Agency to act as a watchdog over the system and laws that are currently full of loopholes.
4. Sufficient money and resources in place so that nature can recover.
5. Establish a National Environment Commission which reports annually, supervises the restoration of land and creates a national approach to protecting nature.

The current system we have is not working. Too much land is being cleared at an unsustainable level. I understand we need development to ensure our economy remains strong, but I also genuinely believe that economic prosperity comes at such a cost where we no longer have any nature areas left.

Please consider my concerns as I know many other ordinary Australians have the same concerns as I do.

Regards,

Amy Thomas

Brisbane, Queensland

