

# SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XYBU-N

## **Name**

Alice Shepherd

## **State or Territory**

Victoria

## **Areas of Interest**

The objects of the Act; Threatened species; Indigenous Australians; Heritage; Environmental Impact Assessments; Great Barrier Reef; Cumulative impacts; Climate change; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation; Wildlife trade; Commonwealth national parks; Nuclear; 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.**

As a passionate diver with a deep love for the ocean I have always been excited to travel to Australia to see the incredible marine life here, in particular the Great Barrier Reef. After yet another mass bleaching event this year due to rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification caused by climate change, it is becoming increasingly apparent to me that I may never get to see a healthy reef in this part of the world. As heart breaking as this is for myself, my concern is much greater than my own experiences. Future generations may never get to experience the magic and beauty of a healthy coral reef. The mining and coal industry in Australia has directly contributed to the destruction, pollution and degradation of the reef, as well as contributing to climate change. The reefs are essential for all life in the ocean and therefore all life on Earth, including us. Plans to build the largest coal mine in the Southern Hemisphere on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef world heritage site seems like environmental suicide and concerns me deeply.

Another reason for travelling to this Australia was to see the amazing wildlife that lives only on this extraordinary continent. I was so excited to travel and explore this beautiful land and see many iconic Australian animals such as Koalas. The decimation of many key habitats due to deforestation for agriculture and logging has seen a dramatic decrease in native wildlife. The 2019 – 2020 bushfires not only made it dangerous to freely travel, but also destroyed even more habitat and an estimated half a billion animals. The failure of the government to implement sufficient preventative measures has directly contributed to what animal rescuers are describing as an “animal apocalypse”. I fear I will not get to see many of the unique animals that live here and I am concerned for the future of this now devastated ecosystem.