

SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XYES-P

Name

Alicia Lloyd

State or Territory

New South Wales

Areas of Interest

Threatened species; Indigenous Australians; Matters of National Environmental Significance; Environmental Impact Assessments; Great Barrier Reef; Cumulative impacts; Climate change; Compliance and enforcement; Decision making; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation; Commonwealth national parks; 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.

Dear Professor Samuel and Independent Review Panel,

I would like to make a submission into the 2019-2020 Independent Review of the EPBC Act.

This submission will cover:

- The issue of how the current EPBC Act has failed to protect our living world, the ecosystem that supports our livelihoods, including matters of national environmental significance;
- The need for community consultation and an independent regulatory body to ensure the law achieves its intention to prevent extinctions and protect critical habitat.
- Solutions and changes to ensure the law works as it was intended, including a positive focus on regenerative practices.

I grew up in Sydney and moved to Queensland to study marine science on the Great Barrier Reef. My research looked at the impact of ocean acidification on reef-building corals and found significantly detrimental physiological and genetic changes as a result of increased carbon dioxide and altered carbonate chemistry due to anthropogenic carbon emissions¹. The time I spent on the reef also deepened my personal connection to nature and developed my wisdom and intuitive understanding of the interconnected web of life.

I've since moved back to Sydney but with a greater value on the natural world. I co-founded several movements to bring the community together to protect our iconic Manly and Bondi Beaches from issues such as plastic pollution^{2,3,4}. I've worked collaboratively with many businesses, community organisations and educational institutions to deliver programs that align the economy with the positive environmental outcomes. I've seen first-hand the shift in mindset towards conscious consumerism and the business opportunity this creates.

Of course, this shift in consciousness has occurred because our community is aware that Australians have very high per capita emissions, we have the highest rate of mammal extinctions and we've experienced the effects of the climate crisis with increased frequency of mass coral bleaching events, intensified bushfires, drought and floods. I have experienced ecological grief and am extremely saddened that the EPBC Act has not served our living world better. Our community now lives active hope that positive actions from this point onwards can turn our trajectory around.

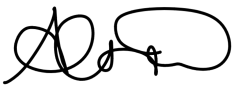
For the survival of all species including *Homo sapiens*, a new National Environment Act must be created with the following attributes:

- Absolute safeguards against extinction, including ending the destruction of endangered species habitat, with clear rights of appeal and consultation for communities.
- A climate crisis 'trigger' for all environmental assessments, so the impacts of the climate crisis for any development, including coal mines, is considered. The impact of the climate crisis is not currently included in the EPBC Act.

- Efficient implementation of mandatory recovery plans for threatened species, through focus on adopting regenerative practices.
- Establishment of an independent National Environment Commission to ensure we develop a fit-for-purpose, coordinated national (state and federal) system of environmental protections and policy responses necessary to support restoration of our environment to health and ensure regulatory resilience to future impacts, publicly reporting every year on the impact of conservation action and funding, and show clearly whether natural values are recovering.
- Establishment of an independent Environment Protection Agency to act as watch-dog over government, and ensure our laws are properly enforced. New projects must show how they actually improve the environment.
- Ensure that sufficient money, people and resources are put in place so that nature can recover.
- Ensure a central role for community, with guaranteed rights and participation in planning and decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me about the contents of my submission via email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Dr Alicia Lloyd



1. Crawley A, Kline DI, Dunn S, Anthony K, Dove S (2010) The effect of ocean acidification on symbiont photorespiration and productivity in *Acropora Formosa*. **Global Change Biology**. 16: 851-863.
2. www.somanly.org
3. www.plasticfreemanly.org
4. www.plasticfreebondi.org