

SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XYFG-B

Name

Alexander Kropper

State or Territory

New South Wales

Areas of Interest

Threatened species; Heritage; Matters of National Environmental Significance; Environmental Impact Assessments; Great Barrier Reef; Cumulative impacts; Climate change; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation; Wildlife trade; 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

QUESTION 1: Some have argued that past changes to the EPBC Act to add new matters of national environmental significance did not go far enough. Others have argued it has extended the regulatory reach of the Commonwealth too far. What do you think?

we need to add greater protections for wildlife, as well as prevent destructive industries from running rampant.

QUESTION 7: What additional future trends or supporting evidence should be drawn on to inform the review?

Climate scientist need to be listened to, and their advice followed.

ATTACHMENT

Additional information was provided as an attachment to this submission. 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 catastrophic effect of the 2019-2020 summer bushfires, and how we must respond as a nation;
- Major issues I see with how the EPBC Act protects our native wildlife, especially considering the increasing threat posed by climate change;
- The Government's failure to ensure that the funding and actions need to protect our wildlife are in place;
- Where I think the EPBC Act and related Government policy needs to be reformed.

I live in Sydney, NSW. I have lived In Ryde, Denistone and Lewisham. I am a student studying Biology at the University of Sydney. Personally, I care deeply about protecting Australia's Unique native species and their environments. Our current laws are allowing an extinction crisis to spiral wildly out of control.

Koalas are perhaps the most obvious species here. I was told stories by my father of road trips up and down the coast when he was a child; seeing Koalas every few minutes, dotted throughout the Gumtrees, especially around Port Macquarie. He loved seeing them and felt a sense of pride when he did. They are an iconic species.

In 2008, I took the same trip with him, and we could not find any Koalas.

In subsequent years, we did not see any either.

In fact, I have never seen a koala in the wild.

I have only see Koalas in Zoos and Wildlife perseveres.

Over the last 20 years the widespread logging and deforestation has decimated what habitats the koalas needed. And the recent bushfires dealt what is likely the killing blow for colonies around Australia's South and east.

This is backed up by national data showing a decline in koalas all around NSW, Qld and the ACT (WWF-Australia Report (2017) Current status of the koala in QLD and NSW). The 2016 State of the Environment Report found that this decline is happening across the board to nearly all our threatened native species. The recent Senate Inquiry into Australia's faunal Extinction Crisis found that was because the EPBC Act "is incapable of addressing" our current extinction threat. I am disappointed that the situation is not being dealt with and I expect the Australian Government to:

1. Ensure Australia does not return to business as usual after the catastrophic 2019-2020 summer bushfires. The same laws and policies that have failed wildlife over decades and

done little to mitigate the climate crisis can't be relied on to help us recover after the bushfires.

2. Australia must ensure our nature is healthy and resilient to sudden shocks like the 2019-2020 bushfires, not just return the pre-bushfire population levels and ecosystem extent.
3. Establish an independent National Environment Commission to ensure we develop a fit- or 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 report every year on the impact of conservation action and funding, and show clearly whether natural values are recovering.
4. Establish a new National Environment Act that enshrines Federal Government leadership over nature protections, contains real safeguards against extinction, including ending the destruction of endangered species habitat, and sets out clear rights of appeal and consultation for communities.
5. Establish an independent Environment Protection Agency to act as watchdog over the system and ensure our laws are properly enforced.
6. Ensure that sufficient money and resources are put in place so that nature can recover.
7. Ensure a central role for community, with guaranteed rights and participation in planning and decision-making.

I am furious over how badly the current Australian Government has handled these environmental crises. It is unacceptable, and we need change if we expect to preserve what wildlife is left.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Yours,

Alex Kropper

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