

SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XZBT-N

Name

Andrei Constantin Constantin

Organisation

1997

State or Territory

Queensland

Areas of Interest

The objects of the Act; Matters of National Environmental Significance; Environmental Impact Assessments; Great Barrier Reef; Cumulative impacts; Climate change; 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 wish to make a submission to the 2019-2020 Independent Review of the EPBC Act. This submission will cover the issues I see as being important as well as how I believe the EBPC needs to change to ensure it works as intended.

Being in a beautiful country like Australia is a privilege and I am grateful everyday for the clean air and greenery that surrounds us everywhere. Also having access to a wide variety of natural environments close by is something I'm enormously grateful for. The wonderful national parks and variety of different forest types and ecosystems is incredible. Springbrook and Lamington national park are two places that I am fortunate to have been able to spend lots of time at growing up, and share with my international family abroad when they came to see Australia. Everyone is amazed by the natural beauty that abounds Australia.

I am deeply concerned that I, along with future generations, will not be able to enjoy these natural resources as a result of climate change. With the increase in climate change and the subsequent increase in both intensity and frequency of bushfires, it is a very real possibility that my future children will not be able to enjoy the wildlife and nature that I was able to enjoy in my childhood. These bushfires were predicted all the way back in 2008 by the Garnaut Climate Change Review and I am concerned that not enough action is being taken to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Currently, Australia is one of the most polluting countries in the world per capita and ranks in the top ten for deforestation.

I would like to make some asks for the EBPC act which include:

1. Create truly national environment laws that genuinely protect Australia's natural and cultural heritage. The Federal Government must retain responsibility for current matters of national environmental significance and protect them effectively. National oversight must be expanded to land clearing, biodiversity and ecosystems, water resources, climate change, air pollution and protected areas.
2. Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions in the matters of national environmental significance, so an assessment process is triggered for a development wherever emissions exceed a threshold.
3. Establish an independent National Environmental Sustainability and Restoration Commission to set national environmental standards and undertake strategic regional planning and report on national environmental performance and identify areas requiring restoration and regeneration of natural systems. The commission would also develop national, regional, threat abatement and species level conservation plans and mechanisms for incentivising compliance.
4. Establish an independent National Environmental Protection Authority that operates at arms-length from Government to conduct transparent environmental assessments and inquiries as well as undertake monitoring, compliance and enforcement actions.
5. Guarantee citizens' and community rights and establish mechanisms for participation in environmental decision-making and open access to all relevant information.
6. Review of the Act every 5 years, instead of every 10 years, to ensure it is agile enough to react to the accelerating rate of change in our natural environment.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission. If you wish to contact me about the contents of my submission, I can be reached [REDACTED]

Yours,

Andrei Constantin

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