

# SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-QJCP-UGYK-E

## **Name**

Yvette Nirvana

## **State or Territory**

Queensland

## **Areas of Interest**

The objects of the Act; Threatened species; Indigenous Australians; Great Barrier Reef; Climate change; Compliance and enforcement; Public participation in decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation; Commonwealth national parks;

## **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.**

Independent review of  
the **EPBC Act**

*The review acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.*

Contact EPBC Act Review at: GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601 | Telephone 1800 803 772 | Web  
[www.epbcactreview.environment.gov.au](http://www.epbcactreview.environment.gov.au)

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

- Ways in which the EPBC Act fails to protect the environment.
- Lack of community consultation
- Ways to improve the Act so it works.

My name is Yvette Nirvana. I am a mother of three and have 7 grandchildren. When my children were growing up I took them for walks in the nearby Kondallia National Park, Mapleton National park and others. I wished to instil a love of nature and environment in my children. I'm afraid my grandchildren won't have that experience.

As I child I lived in New Farm in a flat and had no experience of nature except going on day trips with my father to Mt Cootha or other local areas. Life in the city was miserable.

At 29 I had the opportunity to move to Flaxton near Montville and discovered a peace that could only be found in nature. I spent 15 years planting trees including natives, to restore a cleared grass property that we lived on. I was rewarded with birds and wildlife flocking onto our property. At my local school I was involved in eco education and started a permaculture garden that still continues. It is now a Stephane Alexander supported garden, Montville State Primary.

After 19 years in Montville, I moved to beautiful Stradbroke Island. I started a boomerang bag branch there. On the opening night a scientist from the UQ branch on Stradbroke gave a talk. She showed us the plastic that was found inside turtles and fish. Minjerribah is a rare paradise teeming with wildlife. I have personally seen whales, dolphins, turtles, kangaroos, koalas, snakes, a massive bat colony and a huge variety of birds. It is so close to Brisbane and was something we all felt worth protecting. Unfortunately visitors to the island bring dogs that attack wildlife. They also drive too fast and hit animals. Jade the only vet on the island is frustrated. Laws need to be put in place and policed.

When I heard about the Toondah Harbour development I was dumbfounded. The wet lands are RAMSAR acknowledged. Internationally acclaimed. The community are clearly against the development and are not being considered. Migrating wading birds need to feed and rest in this area, including the critically-endangered Eastern Curlew.

I have signed petitions that seem to go nowhere. The animals and eco-systems will die without the mangroves.

### **Federal documents raise serious environmental concerns ...**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-26/moreton-bay-development-threatens-48-species...>

26/09/2018 · A \$1.3 billion development at the gateway to **Stradbroke Island** off Brisbane has sparked major **environmental concerns** after internal department briefings reveal dredging will threaten dozens of species, including loggerhead turtles and dolphins.

Why must the people fight against the government? The government should represent the health of the people in the long term and therefore should listen to them, for the sake of future generations. This is not possible without an independent environment protection body looking out for our environment with no strings attached.

Science experts should be considered not politicians. Then laws put in place and followed through to protect environment in all ways.

I call on the government to:

Establish an independent National Environment Commission to develop a coordinated system of environmental protections necessary.

This organisation needs to report to the public regularly, so we can see the success or failure of the policies.

The government needs to provide resources and money for successful environmental care.

Thank-you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. If you wish to contact me, email

[Redacted]

Kind regards,

Yvette Nirvana

[Redacted]



12.3.20.