

# SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XGHP-4

**Name**

Alison Wylie

**State or Territory**

Western Australia

**Areas of Interest**

**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.**

Submission from Alison Wylie regarding the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*

I support the review of the Act and hope that it will be strengthened as a result of this review.

The present Act has been successively weakened over the past ten years. The laws we have are failing and our environment is under increasing pressure from climate change, land clearing, weeds and feral animals to name a few. It is time to reassess our impact on this continent and reflect on what we want the Australian landscape to look like for future generations. The effects of climate change are making this even more urgent.

In every area the Act has failed: obvious things being the loss of biodiversity (animal and plant species), failing to take account of climate change, mismanagement of our waterways, failing to prevent fracking, broadscale land-clearing and continued logging of precious habitat, especially forests. Winding back of Marine National Parks was a tragedy when the evidence is that they make a huge contribution to biodiversity, as a carbon sink and, as well, improved fisheries.

There are indications that the government wants to 'cut green tape' — i.e. speed up approvals for developments, which will provide less protection for our natural environment. I oppose any weakening of environmental protections and especially that some of the safeguards be lifted. Now more than ever there must be scrutiny of all the evidence.

I would like the primary aim of the new Australian Environment Act to be environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

Protection of these values must be the key responsibilities of decision makers

Two new statutory environmental authorities need to be formed – a National Sustainability Commission (Sustainability Commission) and a National Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

There needs to be a set of new triggers for federal protection including: the National Reserve System (terrestrial and marine protected areas), ecosystems of national importance, vulnerable ecological communities, The rate of land-clearing needs to be addressed and its impact on climate change and loss of species diversity, greenhouse gas emissions must be taken into account. Assessment of our water resources and the impact of the virtual commercialization of them need to be another trigger. eg the impact on the environment of the the Murray -Darling water allocations.

A renewed focus on protection and recovery of threatened species and ecological communities. Since the fires this is even more urgent.

A National Ecosystems Assessment to identify important natural assets, protect their status and recognize the 'importance of a biodiverse landscape'.

A recognition of the knowledge and wisdom of the Indigenous people in protecting the Australian landscape over 60,000 years. The indigenous leadership needs to be involved in land management and biodiversity stewardship, including formal recognition of Indigenous Protected Areas. They must have input into fire prevention strategies based on their knowledge.

Australian governments, companies, citizens and supply chains need to be held to account for

their behaviour overseas. Do they protect and support global biodiversity? Our respect for the Environment needs to be demonstrated in Australian actions worldwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Alison Wylie

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