

# SUBMISSION TO THE EPBC ACT REVIEW

ANON-K57V-XY17-6

## **Name**

Zoe Champion

## **State or Territory**

New South Wales

## **Areas of Interest**

Indigenous Australians; Heritage; Great Barrier Reef; Cumulative impacts; Climate change; Decision making; Biodiversity; Conservation;

## **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.**

4/17/20

Dear Professor Samuel and Independent Review Panel,

I wish to make a submission to the 2019-2020 Independent Review of the EPBC Act.

I am a 27 year old Fashion Designer that grew up in Homebush and then moved to the North Shore Area. From a young age most recreational activities were spent in nature, at the beach, and travelling to the Blue Mountains to go bushwalking. Joining the Scouting movement at the age of 9 brought the opportunity to develop skills to further experience the incredible nature Australia has to offer; through camping, canyoning, caving and hiking. Every long weekend was spent with friends and family, enjoying every part of nature we could reach.

For the last few years I have been living and working in New York. Despite the excitement of such an incredible place, it is the ability to experience such diversity in land and nature in Australia that I miss most living overseas. When discussing my home with foreigners it is always the beauty and unique biodiversity of the Australian environment that I speak most passionately about. Yet, when discussing how Australia cares for our environment there is a part of me that feels deeply ashamed at how we are abusing our land with little to no consideration for its future. This is why I believe it is the most important part of Australia that we must protect and help thrive.

I am deeply concerned about the lack of governmental action to protect our incredible environment and believe the EPBC Act is inadequate to keep the beauty of Australia for even our generation, let alone future generations. I was lucky enough to visit the Great Barrier Reef, it was one of the most impactful trips I have been on, despite having travelled to over 20 countries. In the 2019 Outlook Report prepared by the Australian government, it said that climate change was the greatest threat to the Reef and yet the EPBC Act does not mention climate change once. In 2020 the reef experienced one of its worst mass bleaching episodes. To lose a natural wonder on our shores would truly be a disaster.

I want to reform the EPBC Act to ensure our unique natural environment continues to be enjoyed by generations to come. My asks for the EPBC Act include:

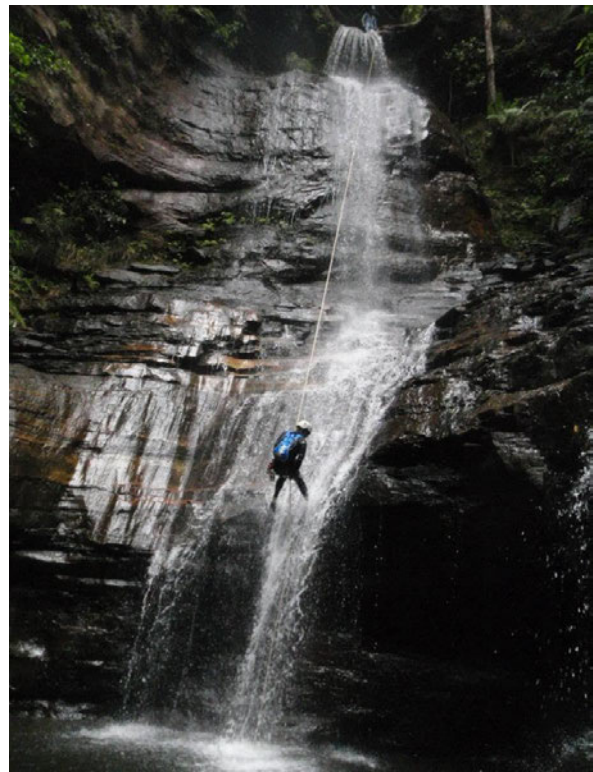
1. Create truly national environment laws that genuinely protect Australia's natural and cultural heritage. The Federal Government must retain responsibility for current matters of national environmental significance and protect them effectively. National oversight must be expanded to land clearing, 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 at my email provided in Section 1 of my submission.

Sincerely,

Zoe Champion  
NSW, 2071



On a canyoning trip in Empress Falls, Blue Mountains.