



PO Box 2569,
SOUTHPORT 4215

23 January 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary:

Approvals Under EPBC Act

This society opposes any surrender or grant of approval powers, under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC), by the Federal Government to the states.

It is important that national standards apply to environmental assessments. These often involve issues which impact species & regions which transcend state boundaries.

By all means, let national standards be developed. However, unfortunately, political & developmental pressures tend to be magnified at state level. It is important that EPBC remain as a reserve or appeal buffer so that short-term goals and greed are constrained & filtered.

The natural environment is essential to health, beauty and many aspects of our economy. History shows it is fragile and can be irreversibly damaged by inappropriate impacts.

Yours faithfully,

Sally Spain,
President