

Letter re transferring environmental protection to the states.

I write regarding the Australian Governments environmental responsibilities. I understand that, under pressure from big business and the mining lobby, the Australian Government is trying to give up responsibility for matters environmental by handing those responsibilities to the states. It seems to me that a good question to ask in this context is: "Should policy be in support of short term financial profits at the expense of long term environmental losses?" My view is that policy should be in support of long term environmental sustainability, as that is the underlying, fundamental requirement for economic and social sustainability. Accordingly, I urge the Australian Government to retain responsibility for matters environmental. To transfer these responsibilities to the states would be an abdication of a most serious nature.