

8 January, 2012.

RE: Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment
(Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012

I strongly support this Bill for logical and historic reasons; failure to do so would be harmful, even dangerous in some instances, to our natural environment and the national economy. The Murray/Darling Basin with its huge food resources and economy was in jeopardy, the affected states failed to respond. It required Federal legal and environmental powers before some resolution.

Had it not been for the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network such icons as the Great Barrier Reef NP would be at even greater risk than already exists from recent State Gov't legislation.

The clamour of climate change sceptics has taken a more subtle form in NSW where legislative constraints on wind farms as renewable energy has been enacted. Also the Environmental Defender's Office NSW can no longer represent farmers, citizens or environment groups regardless of the merits of their concerns regarding coal seam gas and coal mines impacts. The O'Farrell gov't reversed the number marine parks, it disbanded the world renowned Cronulla Fishery's Research Centre and is now to permit "B triple" trailers. All are important environment/economic components. To consider giving further environmental powers where ignorance and or political expediency constitutes policy would be retrograde in the extreme.

Had it not been for Federal intervention ancient dinosaur relics would be at greater risk in Western Australia. These and many more are concerns that extend beyond the immediate and short term rationale. The Franklin River comes to mind

The United Nations now accounts the environment and its roll of sustainability as an integral and equal function a country's/ the world's economic and development process. It follows, humanity's ability to lessen poverty and conflict are greatly enhanced. The natural environment does not recognise artificial boundaries. I most strongly support the Retaining Federal Approval Powers Bill 2012

Yours Sincerely
Ray Cox