



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for the Environment and Water
Australian Parliament
E: minister.watt@dcceew.org.au

Date: 23 June 2025

Dear Minister,

Australian Government's proposed environmental reforms

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, NSW (The Society). The Society is a community volunteer organisation consisting of approximately 900 members. The Society's aim is to help conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

The Management Committee of the Society wishes to express to you its disappointment and deep concern that the government postponed establishment of Environment Protection Australia and Environment Information Australia, development of the Nature Positive concept and replacement of the ineffectual, Howard government era *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) with legislation that fully protected Australia's indigenous plant and animal species, and ecosystems.

Failure to replace the EPBC Act was a particular cause of concern, as the act is utterly outdated, and does not offer effective protection for Australia's many threatened plant and animal species, and ecological communities.

As you would be aware, indigenous Australian nature and its ecosystems are confronted by alarming degradation and extinction scenarios: climate change and its degrading impacts; illegal, poorly planned and inappropriate urban and industrial development; invasive species; international diseases.

Reform of Australia's federal environmental regulatory system is sorely needed. The Management Committee of the Society strongly urges you and the government to pursue implementation of its proposed environmental reforms as soon as possible, and to their full extent.

I have previously raised the Society's deep concerns about this issue with local member, Hon. Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie, and the Prime Minister, Hon. Anthony Albanese MP.

I welcome your response to our concerns and our request for effective action on this issue. I would be pleased to receive advice about when you and the government intend to implement the proposed environmental reforms.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Sartor', written in a cursive style.

Ms Annette Sartor
Acting President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society