

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc



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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

17 February 2025

Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Water and Environment
Parliament of Australia
Email: Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au

Lapse of Australian Government's proposed environmental reforms

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. The Society is comprised of approximately 900 members and seeks to protect, conserve and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Management Committee of the Society was extremely disappointed to recently learn that the government no longer intends to establish Environment Protection Australia and Environment Information Australia, develop the Nature Positive concept and reform the Howard government era *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth). Failure to pursue reform of the EPBC Act is a particular cause of concern, as the act is utterly outdated, and does not offer effective protection for Australia's many threatened plant and animal species, and ecological communities.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 also raised the Society's 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 'A. Cam'.

Mrs Annette Cam
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
president@bluemountains.org.au