

**ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS**

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| <b>Date Received</b>                                   | 04/02/2017  |
| <b>Organisation</b>                                    | Individual  |
| <b>Postcode</b>  |   |
| <b>How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?</b> | <p>As noted in the review, the FFG Act and the EPBC Act should work seamlessly but, unfortunately, it is the EPBC Act which requires a much greater review as it is constantly undermined by State legislation without recourse. For example, native vegetation clearing legislation in QLD and minimalist approaches to river and creek protection in Vic continue to degrade our coastal environs.</p> <p>Several positives in the FFG Act review include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the acknowledgement of natural capital where a simple tool is now required to apply these calculations</li><li>- climate change responsiveness and adaptive management strategies to encourage species' natural resilience</li><li>- acknowledging the importance of biodiversity in the spiritual identity of traditional owners.</li></ul> <p>Another positive focus of the review highlights the importance of habitats and ecological communities that many native species rely on - not just a single species. If we are serious about ecological importance, then we must address 'Ecologically Sustainable Development' priorities in the FFG Act as is documented in the EPBC Act - not just lip service please.</p> <p>It is crucial to understand ESD and hard decisions will need to be made by CMAs, EPA and local government agencies to work with private land managers on broader rehabilitation incentives and targets. In a practical sense, this would suggest that regulatory measures are not just 'proportional to the problem' or 'targeted to achieve the greatest benefits' but are assessed as 'essential to the restoration and functioning of a resilient ecosystem', i.e. protect more of our rivers and creeks upstream from activities that have a significant impact on biodiversity loss and create super sized wetlands (sinks) downstream to cope with the population growth and apathy. To ignore the essential ESD in the regulatory framework, we would only be slowing biodiversity loss, not reversing it.</p> <p>██████████<br/>Feb 2017</p> |