



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

18 November 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining Environmental Approval) Bill 2020

By email ec.sen.@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is a not-for-profit member-based association that supports environmental practitioners throughout their careers and advocates on their behalf to improve sustainability outcomes.

The EIANZ does not support the proposed reporting date for this inquiry and believes the date should be extended so the committee can consider the final report of the EPBC Act Review. Legislative reform should not be rushed and should allow for proper scrutiny and consideration. The timing of this inquiry is disrespectful to the communities who contributed to the review and suggests that the outcome of the review has been predetermined.

Further, EIANZ strongly supports the development of National Environmental Standards, a cornerstone recommendation of the Samuel Review. Any new National Environmental Standards should be made available for proper public consultation before any legislation is put to Parliament. The final form of any amendment bill must necessarily reflect the final form of National Environmental Standards.

The EIANZ strongly supports the establishment of an independent compliance and enforcement regulator and any legislative amendments should reflect this.

Establishing a committee with a two-week turnaround, and before the release of final report of the Samuel Review, effectively closes the door on proper scrutiny and the consideration of likely constructive recommendations from review.

Yours sincerely

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President

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