

The Hon Dr Mike Kelly  
Member for Eden Monaro  
Carp Street  
Bega NSW 2550

Dear Mike

Over recent months it has become very clear that the States are seeking to destroy many of the environmental protections that Australians value.

Australia's National Parks need the Commonwealth to strengthen the protection afforded them from damaging activities like logging, mining, hunting and grazing and the Marine Parks from attempts to overturn the protections against over-fishing and damaging land based pollution of the seas.

In this last session of the Commonwealth Parliament I urge your Government to amend the EPBC Act to inset a trigger to allow the Commonwealth to intervene when damaging activities are being sanctioned by the State Governments.

Your Government has been generally weak on land-based environmental protection. It has lost much public support as a result.

Recent attempts to devolve the Commonwealth's responsibilities to the States at the instigation of the Business Council of Australia have obviously encouraged the States to try to turn back the clock. If nothing else the failed Regional Forest Agreements – a major attempt at such devolution - should have convinced the Commonwealth to resist such pressures.

The situation in your own electorate should also be ringing alarm bells for you. Not just the mess the forestry industry is in, and the impact that is having on the region and other industries, but also the threat the Wilderness Coast as a major tourist destination if National Parks are opened up to vested special interests at the expense of the public generally.

The States are in no position to take on additional environmental responsibilities. They have neither the interest nor the resources to do so.

Please talk to your colleagues and support amendments of the EPBC Act before decades of good environmental protection is discarded.

Yours sincerely

Heather Kenway  
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