EPBC open letter for Kristy McBain MP

Dear Ms McBain MP

As local community members who live, work, shop and play in the Eden Monaro electorate, we want to thank you for standing up for strong laws that actually protect nature.

For many people in the electorate the ability to visit and appreciate nature is hugely important. Eden Monaro is recognised for its diverse selection of Australia's most magnificent and beautiful places, from the Snowy Mountains to the South Eastern Forests and the stunning Southern coastline. So many of us flock to these places to escape and recharge, whether it's just to take a holiday break or to settle into a lifestyle surrounded by nature. Bushwalking, fishing, swimming, birdwatching and freely immersing ourselves in nature are things we love to do in Eden Monaro.

But our unique and precious wildlife and places are in trouble. Australia has one of the worst extinction records on Earth. Uniquely Australian animals like the koala and platypus that we take for granted as symbols of who we are, are under threat. So-called "common" birds like Magpies and Kookaburras have seen significant population declines. Some of our most important and iconic ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef, Murray Darling Basin and mountain ash forests are collapsing. We need to do everything we can to ensure that places and wildlife we love will be around for future generations.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act is the central piece of Australia's environmental protection framework. It's meant to protect our incredible cultural and natural heritage, the water we drink and wildlife we love.

Yet another once-in-a-decade independent review found our laws are failing and insufficient to meet current or future challenges like climate change or extinction. In the twenty one years since the EPBC Act was introduced, it has failed to protect wildlife, plants and ecosystems at risk. The independent reviewer, Professor Graeme Samuel, recommends a complete overhaul of our national environment laws, underpinned by strong national environmental standards, to stem the decline of our iconic places and the extinction of our most threatened animals, plants and ecosystems.

We urge you to continue to stand-up for laws that actually protect nature, including

1. **strong outcome-focused environmental standards that genuinely protect our unique places, plants, animals and ecosystems.**
2. **an independent national Environment Protection Authority to oversee environmental decision-making.**

Yours sincerely,

[Group logos can go here, and/or group representatives can sign on behalf of their groups in the table below]

Name	Title	Group	Postcode