

MEDIA RELEASE



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Sustainable Engineering Society backs EPBC protections

The Sustainable Engineering Society has today joined with a range of signatories in an open letter to political parties seeking a commitment to environmental safeguards provided by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act).

“The EPBC Act provides a necessary safeguard for our environment and natural resources. The Sustainable Engineering Society is concerned about plans raised during the election campaign to divest environmental assessments away from the Commonwealth,” said Sustainable Engineering Society Chair, Lara Harland.

“In joining with a wide range of highly regarded signatories, the Sustainable Engineering Society is drawing attention to the critical role that environmental protection plays in our national wellbeing.

“Environmental protection should not be viewed as a burden on our economy; in fact the exact opposite is true. Effective environmental protection processes are fundamental to ensuring a successful and sustainable national economy – it’s not an ‘either/or’ choice where our natural environment is concerned.

“With the rise of the often derogatory term ‘green tape’ and ‘one-stop-shop’, our political leaders need to be reminded that environmental protections are there for the good of the community, and their challenge is to ensure that EPBC Act processes are scientifically rigorous, efficient and responsive to community needs.

“The fact that a strong economy and a thriving community are each built on the back of our environment is often overlooked. The Sustainable Engineering Society is reminding policy makers that our economic aims and environmental aims need not work against each other, and this is necessarily underpinned by effective regulation,” Ms Harland said.

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