

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment



P.O. Box 845, Narrabeen NSW 2101

www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
ec.sen@aph.gov.au

September 7, 2018

Re: Australian Faunal Extinction Crisis

Dear Sir,

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is a group of 1400 concerned members and supporters who live either locally or within the Sydney northern region who wish to see the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment, its threatened species and its ecosystems properly and sustainably protected for the benefit of current and future generations. We have come together to encourage the Federal Government, the NSW State Government and the Northern Beaches Council in the conservation of crown lands and the sustainable protection of the bushland, creeks, landform and flora and fauna within the catchment, whether it be on private or public lands.

We have been approached by many constituents concerned with the future of the Northern Beaches wildlife and habitat. They are especially critical of Australia's inadequate legal framework regarding the protection of threatened species.

Australia's unique and precious environment must be protected for future generations. To that end, the Federal Government needs to act immediately to strengthen national environmental laws and stop the fast-paced environmental destruction occurring in Australia. Ministerial discretion must be removed and replaced with independent, steadfast and transparent decision-making processes that are consultative, accessible and accountable to Australian communities. The tradition of fast-tracked deals behind closed doors between politicians and developers must end.

Legislative reform should include natural and heritage protection across jurisdictional boundaries for stronger protections and the restoration of threatened species, endangered ecological communities and damaged marine ecosystems. The current inadequate approach where local, state and federal governments work independently of one another must end. National standards and regulation on air and water pollution, waste management, deforestation and climate change must be identified and implemented at all levels of government with strong and independent national oversight and enforcement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. C. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Bennett, President
Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment