
Update on the Independent Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

September 2009

Background:

- On 31 October 2008, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts announced the commencement of an independent review of the EPBC Act and appointed Dr Allan Hawke to undertake the review.
- In undertaking the review, Dr Hawke is being supported by a Panel of Independent Experts and a secretariat housed within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.
- The review is being conducted according to the Terms of Reference, which are available from the review website: www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review
- On 31 October 2008, Dr Hawke released a Discussion Paper and called for written submissions.
- Over 200 submissions were received. A summary of all the written submissions was subsequently produced and published on the review website. The Summary and all of the written submissions (unless confidential) are available on the review website.
- Between February-May 2009, Dr Hawke undertook face-to-face consultations in each of the capital cities.
- On 29 June 2009, Dr Hawke released an Interim Report and invited further comment.
- Over 100 further comments have been received. The comments are available on the review website (unless confidential).
- Further information about the review can be found on the review website (www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review).

Update:

- Since the release of the Interim Report, Dr Hawke and the Expert Panel have convened a number of workshops and had further meetings with stakeholders to seek further views and test ideas.
- Workshops:
 - Environment Groups Workshop
 - ANU and Academics Workshop
 - Industry Workshop
 - Dr Hawke and members of the Expert Panel also attended a heritage workshop hosted by Australia ICOMOS.
 - An earlier workshop was also held on biodiversity issues.

Final Report:

- A final report on the review is due to be presented to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts by 31 October 2009.