

EPBC Act Review

The objects of the Act are admirable, however but failure to achieve them has left some areas in a very bad way.

During the life of the act as the state of the Lower Lakes in South Australia has declined, water allocation in the Finniss and Currency Creek catchments have increased until it is over allocated, as is the Murray from head water to Mouth.

Salinity has risen, ground water has been reduced and many creatures have died such as turtles and mussels. There is a huge story that could be told here.

Economics seem to have over ridden any environmental consideration that should have occurred if the Act was being adhered to.

There appears to be a definite lack of political will to comply with the Act.

The objects of the Act should be in the interest of the environment and take out any politics.

The Act needs updating to take in climate change, water, landclearing and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Act needs to play a much larger role in water use.

Some dots points

- Short public consultation periods
- No public consultation on conditions
- Referral information not always adequate and not all is published
- New listings have little or no effect on approved actions
- No public consultation on conditions
- Internation commitments not fully implemented
- Biodiversity conservation and protection should not be left to each State.
- Decisions on matters pertaining to national environmental significance should be reviewed on their merits.
- There should be one type of assessment for all of Australia.
- Inland rivers and lakes and communities are under enormous pressur and need priority attention.
- EPBC listing should mean that small problem areas could be treated like bush fires and all resources made available to areas in real distress.

There is a substantial framework in place that needs to be removed from politics so there can be better environmental responses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comments

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