



## Submission to the Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation)

Via email: to [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)  
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EEG was one of the groups involved in preparing the One Stop Chop report which gives detailed legal opinion on why handing responsibility over to the states will not work and could likely be in breach of Australia's international responsibilities.

That report also shows that standards under RFAs are abysmal, in fact even worse than under the EPBC Act; the evidence is considerable.

EEG has been forced to take at least three legal actions to sue the state's environment agency and the government's logging agency due to their reckless logging practices. These government bodies were and we believe still are destroying wildlife and the forests which should be protected under state laws. EEG has won all three cases, one being a major Supreme Court case and the other two being settled out of court to our satisfaction.

State government's cannot be trusted to have the resources, the legislation in place or the will to look after what is an increasingly desperate situation for the country's habitats and rare wildlife.

The One Stop Chop report is online [here](https://envirojustice.org.au/major-reports/one-stop-chop-how-regional-forest-agreements-streamline-environmental-destruction). <https://envirojustice.org.au/major-reports/one-stop-chop-how-regional-forest-agreements-streamline-environmental-destruction>

It is not simply the small non-sexy species which are under threat but our iconic, globally recognised and loved koalas. The endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the west and the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo in the east are still having their habitat destroyed with the approval of the state governments. The list is shamefully long.

Victoria's critically endangered Leadbeater's possum is still not protected from logging despite only 1000 remaining in the wild (fewer than giant pandas!).

The Hawke review recommendations were ignored and the EPBC data bases are shockingly out of date and inadequate.

The time is critical - the Federal Government must urgently strengthen its laws to ensure our unique flora and fauna survives and flourishes.

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