Dear Senator Ruston

Re: Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standing) Bill 2015

On behalf of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc (EIANZ), I am pleased to enclose a copy of a submission relating to the proposed amendment of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to repeal the long standing provisions of Section 487.

The EIANZ understands that the effect of the proposed amendment is to reduce the range of parties that have standing under the EPBC Act, and thus restrict the range of circumstances in which judicial review of decisions under the EPBC Act can be initiated.


The EIANZ considers that the proposal to amend the EPBC Act to remove Section 487 is inconsistent with good practice in environmental assessment. It reduces transparency, rigour and accountability which in turn weakens governance in relation to environmental decision making. The EIANZ considers that the proposed repeal of Section 487 undermines the objectives of the EPBC Act, and is contrary to international good practice standards.

The EIANZ is the leading professional body for environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand, promoting independent and interdisciplinary discourse on good practice environmental management, and holding its members accountable to the EIANZ Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
Representatives of the EIaNZ would be pleased to appear before the Committee to give evidence if that would assist in its deliberations on the proposed legislation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Jon Womersley  FEIANZ, CEnvP
Board Chair and
President