



House Standing Committee on the Energy and Environment

RE: The Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

Dear Committee Secretariat

Preamble:

The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association (MPBA) was formed in 1964 to protest against the destruction of bushland at Bradleys Head. The Association's main objective continues to be the protection of bushland, parks and open space in Mosman for the benefit of current and future generations.

Among our founding members were the Bradley sisters whose observations about the disappearance of Blue Wrens from Mosman led them to develop the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration, still practiced today. Many association members are actively involved in volunteer bush regeneration projects in the Mosman Local Government area and in the Sydney Harbour National Park with NPWS.

Our advocacy is principally with local government, but with the NSW and Commonwealth governments when appropriate.

Climate Change:

Local governments are acting, State governments are acting, but a national framework for meeting the 2050 target of net zero emissions is essential for the protection of our national interests.

- It will bring business confidence
- It will bring jobs
- It will improve Australia's economic outlook if we conform to our international trading partners' requirements
- It will help agriculture
- Doctors warn of health consequences if temperatures go on rising

However, humans are not the only species affected by climate change.

The MPBA's particular concern is the environment and biodiversity.

Australia's biodiversity, its flora and fauna, is unique, and Australia is in the midst of an extinction crisis. Loss of habitat through land clearing, forestry and development are playing a part, but climate change is the overarching danger that is both a consequence and cause of these losses as well as a danger in itself.

- Consider the bushfires of 2019/20. Caused mainly by a drought and heat, they have resulted in huge loss of habitat and threat to species. We do not know yet if extinctions have occurred, or whether more species are on the endangered list and more are vulnerable.
- Consider the Barrier Reef. Rising sea temperatures are causing the bleaching and death of coral and the species dependent on coral.

- Consider the Murray/ Darling and the effect on species caused by heat and drying in addition to the effect of increased water use
- And just this week, the platypus! The platypus is iconic and unique in the evolution of species, yet a University of NSW report reveals serious decline through land clearing and dams, drought and bushfires made worse by climate change. The platypus is likely to meet the criteria for being declared Vulnerable under the EPBC Act 1999.

Summary:

Organisations like the MPBA all over Australia are doing what they can by bush regenerating and advocating to save our parklands, bushlands and native species. But our efforts will be in vain if we continue to see the exponential damage caused by unchecked warming – if our climate continues to get hotter, dryer and more violent.

Conclusion:

For the sake of our children's and grandchildren's continued enjoyment of Australia's unique and wonderful biodiversity we ask you to recommend these bills and that you recommend a bipartisan conscience vote for them.

The bill is based on the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Labour Government introduced the bill which had bipartisan support and which the Conservative Government has been following and implementing since 2010. Emissions are down 40% and many jobs in the renewable sector have been created. It is a success in every way and a model the Australian Government can embrace with confidence and optimism.

Strong points of the proposed legislation are its practicality in its call for five-year plans, budgets and reviews, for an independent advisory commission, and its fairness to affected members of the public. This is a bill that legislators should be able to pass into an Act that Australians will be able to accept and embrace.

Yours sincerely



Kate Eccles
President
27.11.2020