Committee Secretary,

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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Dear Committee Members,

**Nature Positive bills 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

My name is Clive Stott I am 75 years old. Much of my life I have lived in Tasmania where I was born and currently reside after living and working in Victoria and NSW.

In brief I worked in avionics, biomedical and hospital engineering. I was on a hospital board and supported respiratory patients with their equipment at home.

I was full member of what is now known as the Institute of Healthcare Engineering, Australia (IHEA).

To quote the Lung Foundation; “When you can’t breathe nothing else matters.”

As someone with breathing difficulties I feel I have lived experience.

Apart from breathing, it also matters to me that we look after our environment with clean air, clean water, a natural environment, and can enjoy good health along with every living thing. My main area of interest is air quality.

If we don’t clean up our air we won’t have an environment as we have known it. I have seen many people going through our health system, with preventable diseases related to environmental outcomes. I know more suffering in silence. I do not even want to go back to places I enjoyed as wilderness when I was younger, such as staying in Gustav and Kate Weindorfer’s original Waldheim chalet at Cradle Mountain.

Our natural beauty needs to be protected.

Surely the extinction of our Tasmanian tiger should serve as a warning to halt the extinction of anymore fauna or flora. **When they are gone it is final.**

Our national EPA structure and regulations need to be seriously updated to actually reflect we do have a truly impartial and independent Environment Protection Agency with teeth. One which will act without fear or favour.

We need an EPA with integrity and we must have access to justice.

The EPA must be independent and free of political influence with environment decisions based on science.

This means it must be run by an expert board not by one person with over-riding powers.

It must guarantee environmental justice. This means a right to a healthy environment for every living thing.

The new EPA must guarantee a right to appeal on any new projects or developments where environmental matters are concerned.

The new EPA must end extinction by tightening our laws to stop habitat destruction.

The EPBC Act must be amended to allow the EPA to end deforestation and safeguard critical habitat.

The new EPA must manage, regulate and protect our air quality in Australia, and penalties must apply. The new EPA must not handball this to other agencies.

State Premiers cannot set our Clean Air Agreement. They have vested interests such as logging, mining, planned arson burns, etc.

We are paying so many millions of dollars on completely preventable medical costs and trying to save our fauna and flora. It has to stop. Progress must commence on the new EPA straight away with short timeframes for review and implementation, not years in between before it is looked at again.

At present the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/air-quality> states amongst other things:-

“All levels of government play a role in managing Australia’s air quality.”

The inconsistencies between states, territories, local governments, etc., is shameful. We know what is required and if the national EPA does not step up then there is unfortunately not much hope for our children to enjoy good health and what we rightfully took for granted environmentally.

I say this as someone who has dealt with other people from across Australia for years who are breathing deliberate, toxic wood smoke.

Please look at this one arson burn [**HERE**](https://cleanairtas.com/smokewatch/images/Lanena2024-05-05.230320.jpg) in norther Tasmania. It in effect [**breached our national air quality standard of 25mg/m3 for 6 days.**](https://cleanairtas.com/smokewatch/images/6_Days_Over_25ugm3.jpg) **-** data supplied by EPA Tasmania.Our health system cannot afford it. Our new EPA must stop all this needless burning and our health system will have money to burn. **[We even have people burning leaves](https://cleanairtas.com/smokewatch/VID20240606155331.mp4)** when we do not even know the national number or breakdown of types of heating appliances people use.

National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs) need to be reset by the EPA. It is not good enough to follow the WHO 24 hour standard for PM2.5 **averaging 5ug/m3 per year**, and **nothing shorter than a 24 hour average**, when a simple Google search will show short-term health studies of a few hours exposure to air pollution is harmful. There is no minimum level.

Please refer to the following document to clean up our air. This is what our new EPA should be doing. [**https://cleanairtas.com/air-monitoring/PM2.5\_v.5.3.pdf**](https://cleanairtas.com/air-monitoring/PM2.5_v.5.3.pdf)

This submission should be read in conjunction with [**https://cleanairtas.com**](https://cleanairtas.com)

Thank you.