

A composite image of a forest scene. In the upper left, a large bird of prey with dark wings and a red and black tail is perched on a tree branch. In the upper right, a sloth with brown and white stripes is hanging from a branch. In the lower left, a raccoon is sitting on a tree branch. In the lower right, a black bear is looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and a blue sky.

Not negotiable.

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Dear Prime Minister,

The Commonwealth Government has a crucial role to play in protecting our environment and wildlife. Protecting our wild places and native animals is not 'green tape,' and I call on you to take a strong stand against the proposals in the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) agenda that are driven by the Business Council of Australia, to wind back the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and transfer federal approval powers to state governments.



Our iconic wildlife and environment are under greater pressure and threat than ever before. We need to strengthen rather than weaken environmental protection laws.

On many occasions, including the notorious proposals to dam the Franklin River or to re-introduce cattle grazing into Alpine National Parks, the Federal Government has stepped in to prevent state governments from carrying out environmentally damaging projects, and to ensure the protection of our unique landscapes and wildlife.

The serious problems with creating bilateral management arrangements with the states are already demonstrated by the Regional Forest Agreement process, which has led to long term controversy and conflict in every forest region, and the continued loss of native wildlife and forests around the country. Handing even broader environmental assessment and approval powers to the states would see irreversible environmental damage and conflict.

Australia's environment is unique, precious and world class. For our wildlife and threatened wild places, please prevent the weakening of our environment laws, and ensure the Commonwealth's essential role in preserving the natural environment is maintained.



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Karri Forest at dawn by Simon Neville
Cockatoo in flight by Bobbi Marchini
Numbat by Panda Broad
Tasmanian Devil by Matthew Newton
Leadbeater Possum by Dan Harley

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