

RE: Concerns on the environment (Case Ref: PK1036)

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 3:17 PM <contact@peterkhalil.com.au> wrote:

Dear John,

Thank you for writing to me about this important issue. I apologise for my delay in responding to your email. As you can imagine I receive a high volume of emails and I respond to each one.

Firstly, may I begin by saying that like you, I want to leave nature better off for future generations- and that includes better protecting our precious native plants and animals.

Our government is doing more than ever to protect our environment. We're delivering stronger protections for our land, waterways, plants and animals.

Recently, our legislation to establish our national, independent Environment Protection Agency passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate.

Delivering on our election commitment, Environment Protection Australia will be strong and effective. It will be able to issue 'stop-work' orders to prevent serious environmental damage, and proactively audit business to ensure they're doing the right thing. We're also increasing penalties, so that punishment for seriously damaging the environment is in line with crimes like insider trading or market manipulation.

Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek has also introduced legislation to establish Environment Information Australia. EIA will provide up-to-date, transparent environmental data and information. It will also release State of the Environment reports every two years, instead of five. In a world first, this bill also provides a legal definition of, and reporting measure for, 'nature positive'.

We've already legislated the first tranche of environment laws, with a stronger 'water trigger' to make sure the impacts of coal and gas projects on water are considered – helping to better protect our water for drinking and farming. We're also establishing a world first Nature Repair Market, making it easier for business and charities to invest in the repair of nature.

Our government is continuing to consult closely with environment groups, business, states and territories, and others, on further updates to national environment laws, as outlined in our Nature Positive Plan.

As part of the third stage, there will be a comprehensive exposure draft of the new laws released for public consultation, prior to their introduction to Parliament.

On top of this we're boosting renewables, setting a target of net zero emissions in law, and investing \$1 billion in solar panel manufacturing. Our efforts to reduce emissions are paying off. Latest data shows that emissions in the year to March 2024 were 2.7 million tonnes lower than the year to March 2023. Australia's overall emissions are now estimated to be 28.2 per cent below the year to June 2005, and this decline is expected to continue.

Our government is also doubling the funding for national parks, establishing a world first Nature Repair market, protecting threatened plants and animals, boosting funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef and much more.

Thank you for writing to me about this matter, and please feel don't hesitate to contact me again regarding this or any other federal issue. You can call 03 9350 5777 or send me an email at peter.khalil.mp@aph.gov.au.