



Return of the Grumpy Old Greenies

An ENGO perspective on the EPBC Act

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The good news

- Increase in significant impacts refused
- Ecological community listings resumed
- Commercial fish listings
- Progress with Natural Heritage listings
- Marine bioregional planning
- Improvements to fisheries management



Litigation

- Federal Court – Japanese whaling
- AAT – Asian elephants
- AAT – Southern bluefin tuna
- AAT – Southern & Eastern Scalefish & Shark Fishery



The bad news

- 2006 amendments – removed 3rd party rights, gutted listing process
- Listings still drip fed and no critical habitats
- Biodiversity crisis continues



EPBC Reform

New Matters of National Environmental Significance triggers:

- Greenhouse trigger
- Ecosystems National Importance
- Vulnerable ecological communities
- National Reserve System



Strategic approaches and cumulative impacts

- Strategic Assessments
- Bioregional Planning
- RFAs
- Fisheries
- Plans, policies and programs



Biodiversity

- Critical habitats
- Offsets
- Invasive species
- Listings
 - public nominations
 - limit discretion on priorities
 - strictly scientific decisions
 - fish in rightful category



The portents

- Greenhouse trigger and RFA accountability ruled out
- Bill to remove protections for migratory sharks
- 290 yr approval to impact critical Grey-headed Flying-fox colony
- Budget cuts!



Grumpy & getting grumpier