

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QTDHH

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Submission Text:

I'm sure that within the next decade or so the human rights of Australian citizens will be protected by some legislative or constitutional instrument. Although human rights are important they are not as important as protecting human's relationship with the natural world. For without the natural world, humans cannot exist.

What I think needs to be enforced is a Charter of Environmental Integrity for Australia. The details would have to be agreed by consultation and discussion, but I think that the obvious points to include in this would be:

- 1.A commitment to bring Australia's population down to a sustainable level—expert opinion would indicate around 10 million.
- 2.A commitment to preserve all higher (ie vertebrate) animal species and plant species, and ecosystems, currently extant in Australia, by expanding and managing the National Park system, with a level of funding to ensure that proper management can occur.
- 3.A commitment to protect all Australia's old-growth forest, and restrict logging to plantations.
- 4.A commitment to making Australia's industry carbon neutral as quickly as possible.

ps the fact that your range of options for topics within this area does not include Environment shows how limited official imagination is, and how necessary the concept of Environmental Integrity is.