



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMBER FOR FARRER**

MC20-019084

23 Dec 2020

Mr Glenn Byres
Policy Director
Urban Development Institute of Australia
PO Box 110
ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Dear Mr Byres

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 November 2020 co-signed by Mike Zorbas of the Property Council of Australia concerning reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

On 30 October 2020, the EPBC Act Independent Reviewer, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, provided me with his Final Report. The Final Report is comprehensive, and the Australian Government will spend the time necessary to fully consider Professor Samuel's recommendations.

I appreciate the participation of UDIA and the Property Council of Australia in Professor Samuel's consultative process. Professor Samuel has provided recommended Standards in his Final Report and other key reform elements that were shaped by those important stakeholder inputs. Thank you also for your suggestions on a pathway forward. I will continue to work with key stakeholders in responding to Professor Samuel's recommendations, and I note the continued interest of the UDIA and the Property Council of Australia in this process.

As an initial reform step, the Government remains committed to the early reforms I announced in July 2020, which align with the recommendations of the review's Interim Report. This includes progressing single-touch approvals, which will accredit states and territories to make EPBC Act approval decisions on the Commonwealth's behalf, underpinned by standards.

Thank you for your continued interest in reform of our national environment laws. I have also written to Mr Zorbas with a similar response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sussan Ley', written over the typed name 'SUSSAN LEY'.

SUSSAN LEY