

Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Bates

The total destruction by the end of this year of all the vegetation, rare forest, legislatively protected bird and animal habitats and ancient Aboriginal cultural heritage on a postage-stamp size block of rural land south of Sydney, will bring home starkly to Australians and the world exactly how we are rapidly worsening the already highly degraded state of the Australian environment reported only two months ago.

To make way for a sand mine with a life of only about two years, the NSW Government has approved the complete clearing of:

- One of the rare stands, 4.5 hectares, of the fast disappearing 100-year-old to 400-year-old State-protected Endangered Ecological Community, Bangalay Sand Forest, and the multitude of animal and bird habitats it provides;
- Regrowth stands of Commonwealth-protected Southeast Littoral Rainforest, listed under the Australian EPBC Act as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC), and
- An additional 3.0 ha of high value native vegetation.

The 27-metres-deep dredge pit for this temporary sand mine will also obliterate:

- A cultural heritage and landscape area recently classed as a Significant Aboriginal Area by a consultant to the Australian Government;
- The site of probable burials of the victims of a Colonial massacre by early European settlers and, in all likelihood, other Aboriginal burials;
- Ancient archaeological deposits classed as “highly significant” by the mining company’s consultant. So unusually rich are the salvage archaeology finds at the site that local Aboriginal stakeholders undertaking the salvage archaeology for the miner’s consultant have stopped work and refused to return.

The area to be completely and irrevocably cleared and then deeply dredged is only 8.12 hectares, entirely disproportionate to the multitude of environmental and biodiversity values the mine will totally destroy. It is also only 160 metres from the relatively pristine Minnamurra River and its equally untouched estuary, just a few kilometres north of Kiama, NSW, and 120km south of Sydney.

Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

¹ Friends of Minnamurra River (FOMR) Inc. is an active incorporated community-based association formed five years ago to conserve, protect and enhance the estuarine and catchment ecosystems of the Minnamurra River just north of coastal Kiama, NSW. FOMR has qualified expertise available to it and within its membership in plant and animal ecology, archaeology, hydrology and environmental science.

DPIE also says that six fauna species listed as threatened under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* have been recorded in the mining site to be cut and cleared but this is an underestimate. There are at least nine bird and animal species, listed as vulnerable to endangered, in that same area.

Several of the species are subject to the NSW government's "Save Our Species" program and yet unknown numbers will be killed and injured in the mass cutting and clearing program.

There will also be direct risks to a third Endangered Ecological Community very close to the mine site, Coastal Saltmarsh, protected in NSW, listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act and, again, for which the NSW government has developed a "Save Our Species" recovery program. Additionally, pristine stands of Commonwealth-protected EEC, SE Littoral Rainforest, overhang the proposed sand extraction area to be cleared.

This sand mining proposal near Kiama shares the same underlying causative factors as much of the environmental degradation reported in the national State of the Environment: a defective government approval process (legal advice to FOMR) and the use of minimalist or expedient State government legislation/regulations designed to expedite the economic/commercial interests of miners, developers and big agribusiness.

Even the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, proposed by the NSW government (DPIE) to do the impossible and offset the proposed mine's biodiversity destruction in return for a monetary payment by the mining company, was in November last year described by the NSW government's own Environment Minister as broken and in need of "root and branch" reform and by the NSW Audit Office last week as poorly designed and ineffectively implemented.

The proposed sand mine is opposed by both local governments in the affected area, local State and Federal members of Parliament, including a member of the NSW government and former NSW government minister, all local community representative associations, thousands of local residents who have attended protest rallies near the mine site since its approval 22 months ago and by 21,000-plus signatories to a petition opposing the mine and its total, unnecessary environmental destruction.

The total destruction of this disproportionately small but magnificently biodiverse ecosystem and its ancient and cultural heritage of enduring life-fulfilling values to living local First Nations' people, will signal to all Australians our preparedness to allow continuation of Australia's decades-long slide to a point of environmental degradation quoted as "an existential threat to humanity"² in the recently released State of the National Environment report.

More positively, the planned destruction is entirely preventable. As a Member of Parliament, you have the power to invoke *existing* environmental and cultural heritage protection legislation. Only you can use those laws to help stop this imminent but preventable environmental tragedy, yet another addition to our already worst-ever state of the environment report.

Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

² *Australia – State of the Environment 2021*, Key Findings, Outlook and Impacts, Outlook, p.1, Australian Government, Canberra, July 2022.

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Dear Mr Chandler-Mather

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Dear Ms Watson-Brown

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Dear Mr Bandt

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Dear Dr Leigh

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Albanese

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Burney

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7 September 2022

Dear Dr Charlton

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Clare

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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Yours sincerely,
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Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

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This sand mining proposal near Kiama shares the same underlying causative factors as much of the environmental degradation reported in the national State of the Environment: a defective government approval process (legal advice to FOMR) and the use of minimalist or expedient State government legislation/regulations designed to expedite the economic/commercial interests of miners, developers and big agribusiness.

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Dr Reid

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Rowland

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms Templeman

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Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Gosling

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

² *Australia – State of the Environment 2021*, Key Findings, Outlook and Impacts, Outlook, p.1, Australian Government, Canberra, July 2022.

Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

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Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Wells

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7 September 2022

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Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

² *Australia – State of the Environment 2021*, Key Findings, Outlook and Impacts, Outlook, p.1, Australian Government, Canberra, July 2022.

Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms Miller-Frost

The total destruction by the end of this year of all the vegetation, rare forest, legislatively protected bird and animal habitats and ancient Aboriginal cultural heritage on a postage-stamp size block of rural land south of Sydney, will bring home starkly to Australians and the world exactly how we are rapidly worsening the already highly degraded state of the Australian environment reported only two months ago.

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- An additional 3.0 ha of high value native vegetation.

The 27-metres-deep dredge pit for this temporary sand mine will also obliterate:

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Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

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Several of the species are subject to the NSW government's "Save Our Species" program and yet unknown numbers will be killed and injured in the mass cutting and clearing program.

There will also be direct risks to a third Endangered Ecological Community very close to the mine site, Coastal Saltmarsh, protected in NSW, listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act and, again, for which the NSW government has developed a "Save Our Species" recovery program. Additionally, pristine stands of Commonwealth-protected EEC, SE Littoral Rainforest, overhang the proposed sand extraction area to be cleared.

This sand mining proposal near Kiama shares the same underlying causative factors as much of the environmental degradation reported in the national State of the Environment: a defective government approval process (legal advice to FOMR) and the use of minimalist or expedient State government legislation/regulations designed to expedite the economic/commercial interests of miners, developers and big agribusiness.

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Rishworth

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Zappia

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NSW 2533

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Collins

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NSW 2533

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Mitchell

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7 September 2022

Dear Dr Ananda-Rajah

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Burns

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
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Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms Chesters

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Coker

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Hill

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Kearney

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Khalil

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms King

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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Marles

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Yours sincerely,
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Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Shorten

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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This sand mining proposal near Kiama shares the same underlying causative factors as much of the environmental degradation reported in the national State of the Environment: a defective government approval process (legal advice to FOMR) and the use of minimalist or expedient State government legislation/regulations designed to expedite the economic/commercial interests of miners, developers and big agribusiness.

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The proposed sand mine is opposed by both local governments in the affected area, local State and Federal members of Parliament, including a member of the NSW government and former NSW government minister, all local community representative associations, thousands of local residents who have attended protest rallies near the mine site since its approval 22 months ago and by 21,000-plus signatories to a petition opposing the mine and its total, unnecessary environmental destruction.

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

² *Australia – State of the Environment 2021*, Key Findings, Outlook and Impacts, Outlook, p.1, Australian Government, Canberra, July 2022.

Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Keogh

The total destruction by the end of this year of all the vegetation, rare forest, legislatively protected bird and animal habitats and ancient Aboriginal cultural heritage on a postage-stamp size block of rural land south of Sydney, will bring home starkly to Australians and the world exactly how we are rapidly worsening the already highly degraded state of the Australian environment reported only two months ago.

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- A cultural heritage and landscape area recently classed as a Significant Aboriginal Area by a consultant to the Australian Government;
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The area to be completely and irrevocably cleared and then deeply dredged is only 8.12 hectares, entirely disproportionate to the multitude of environmental and biodiversity values the mine will totally destroy. It is also only 160 metres from the relatively pristine Minnamurra River and its equally untouched estuary, just a few kilometres north of Kiama, NSW, and 120km south of Sydney.

Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

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NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms King

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Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms Lawrence

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Mr Lim

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NSW 2533

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Mascarenhas

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Roberts

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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KIAMA DOWNS
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7 September 2022

Dear Mr Wilson

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7 September 2022

Dear Ms Sharkie

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
Chair, FOMR Inc.
Ph: 0419 633 191

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Minnamurra River Incorporated¹

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NSW 2533

Email: FOMR2533@gmail.com



7 September 2022

Dear Ms Tink

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Called Stage 5B of the Dunmore Lakes Modification Site by the mining company, building materials’ supplier, Boral Limited, the proposed sand mine has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), despite the same department’s recognition of the mine site’s high and legislatively protected environmental and biodiversity values.

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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7 September 2022

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More positively, the planned destruction is entirely preventable. As a Member of Parliament, you have the power to invoke *existing* environmental and cultural heritage protection legislation. Only you can use those laws to help stop this imminent but preventable environmental tragedy, yet another addition to our already worst-ever state of the environment report.

Yours sincerely,
Will Chyra
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² *Australia – State of the Environment 2021*, Key Findings, Outlook and Impacts, Outlook, p.1, Australian Government, Canberra, July 2022.