



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
PO Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305
www.hboc.org.au
ABN 62 415 889 446

Minister for the Environment
Mr J. Frydenberg
695 Burke Road
Camberwell 3124
Victoria

Letter sent by email to josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au

Re: Development of Toondah Harbour

Dear Mr Frydenberg,

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) based in Newcastle, NSW, strenuously objects to the development planned on Toondah Harbour in Moreton Bay, Queensland, listed as a wetland of international importance in 1993 under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.

The site supports Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, an endangered species in Queensland and critically endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It is also identified as a migratory species in appendices to the Bonn Convention, and in JAMBA (Japan/Australia Migratory Bird Agreement), CAMBA (China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreement) and ROKAMBA (Republic of Korea/Australia Migratory Bird Agreement). This species has suffered an 80% decline over three years due to habitat destruction.

The site supports other vulnerable species such as Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

The Australian Government has a long history of not upholding environmental laws and your refusal, Mr Frydenberg, to protect this species and its habitat is but another example of this failure adding to our poor global reputation in conservation matters. Australia is no better than other Asian countries in this regard despite the fact that we have laws in place to protect vulnerable species.

The HBOC is a well-respected community group with over 350 members and is based in the Hunter Region of NSW. It is the largest club or group in the Hunter Region that caters specifically for those with an interest in birds in their natural habitat. HBOC is affiliated with BirdLife Australia; the country's largest bird conservation organisation with over 85,000 members and supporters across the country. In turn, BirdLife Australia is the national partner of BirdLife International, representing one of the world's largest nature conservation partnerships, with over 13 million supporters.

HBOC has two objectives in its charter:

To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat
To encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity.

HBOC asks that you reject outright the proposal to develop Toondah Harbour and that you uphold the laws which protect Eastern Curlew and its habitat.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert Stewart President of Hunter Bird Observers Club 12/12/2018