



**Minister for
Environment and Climate Change**

Ref: DSE081656



Mr Kelvin Thomson MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament of Australia
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Dear Mr Thomson

**AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

I refer to your letter dated 8 February 2012 to the Premier, the Hon Ted Baillieu MP, regarding amendments to Appendices I and II to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (CMS). As this issue falls within my responsibilities as the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, your correspondence has been forwarded to me for a response.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) supports the conservation of migratory species. DSE does not have any comments on the proposed nomination of the Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) to Appendix I of the CMS, or the Giant Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*) to both Appendix I and II of the CMS.

DSE has consulted with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Division on the proposed listing of the Giant Manta Ray. As there are no commercial fisheries in Victoria that include the Giant Manta Ray, DPI has not raised any issues with the proposed listing of Giant Manta Ray. It was noted that bycatch of Giant Manta Ray could occur in some of the commercial fisheries in Victoria. However, this would be incidental catch only and is known to be uncommon.

Thank you for raising this matter with the Premier.

Yours sincerely

THE HON RYAN SMITH MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

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