



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment,  
Communications and the Arts  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600




Dear Dr Holland

On 28 May 2009 I appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts for the Budget Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing I was asked a question relating to the Cocos Malay community proposal to harvest Red Footed Boobies (*Sula sula*). Specifically I was asked to provide Senator Scullion with a copy of a letter sent to the Department from the Cocos Congress-Inc. This question appears on ECA 54 of the transcript.

My answer to that question was that the Department will need to confirm with the Cocos Congress-Inc that a copy of their letter can be provided to Senator Scullion. I am pleased to advise that I can now provide a copy of the letter.

It would be appreciated if you could inform Senator Scullion that the letter has been provided.

  
Peter Burnett  
First Assistant Secretary  
Approvals and Wildlife Division  
September 2009

Encl.  
Attachments.  
Letter from Cocos Congress-Inc to the Department.

**COCOS CONGRESS-INC COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS  
INDIAN OCEAN 6799.**

The Assistant Secretary  
Of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601

Attention. Vicki Middleton

**Reference: Red-Footed Booby Birds Harvest, Cocos (Keeling) Islands (EPBC 2002/844)**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 May, 2009, with reference to the Red- Footed Booby Birds harvest at the Cocos (Keeling) islands (EPBC 2002/844).


As the matter of the referral about the Red-Footed booby birds harvest at the Cocos (Keeling) islands submitted to your department for consideration has been such a long period of time, therefore, the Cocos Congress need to go back to the people who is expert to assist in this matter.

To get an expert like Miss Bradie Hills who help Cocos Congress with referral is not that easy, because she has been moving every where. Now the matter become more difficult for Cocos Congress to deal with, therefore, without an expert person to help Cocos Congress the matter will delay in which the Cocos Congress does not want that to happen and the Cocos Malays community continue to harvest the birds illegally and faces the court every year. As you may be aware that all firearms have been taken by the Cocos police on Cocos and keeping them in the police station until now no decision have been made about those firearms. Therefore, this is not fair the Red-Footed Booby birds are part of our tradition foods. The Commonwealth can not holds this matter and the community believe that hunting sessions should be opened at list once a year, using the tradition hunting method.

I have spoken with Chris Murphy on the telephone about your letter for his information and giving a copy of your letter to Ismail Macrae who is the National Parks Officer on the Cocos (keeling) islands for his information and advise and sent an email to Miss Bradie Hills to get her locations information, however, I have no reply as yet from her:

I will write to Ismail Macrae to get his expert advise on the matter. However, I do not know how long it will take the Cocos Congress to respond to your requirements.

Yours faithfully

  
Haji Adam JP  
Chairman

Cc: Chris Murphy  
Cc: Nek Qusyairi D- Chairman  
Cc: Nigel Scullion-Senator  
05/06/09