



2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

Environment Communications and the Arts Committee  
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Inquiry.

Dear Committee Members

I write with a request that you put a ban on the killing of shearwaters (*puffinus tenuirostris*).

The breeding age short tailed shearwaters will be returning to their burrows later in September after their migration of 15,000 kilometres to Japan, Aleutian Islands and North America. Breeding will continue up until April 2009 among the 280 colonies in S.E. Australia. Unlike other birds (such as spur-winged plovers), there is only one egg laid, and if damaged, it is not replaced.

Currently, 156,000 shearwater chicks are slaughtered each year by having their necks snapped. The commercialisation of our wildlife is unconscionable. We should treasure such a migratory miracle as the shearwater. They are of great interest to the eco-tourism industry.

Although there appears to be a huge number of chicks bred each year, they are still vulnerable to over harvesting and habitat destruction by cattle, pigs and sheep. Soil erosion can destroy suitable sites for burrowing. Feral cats find shearwater chicks easy prey.

Please note that the shearwater is protected under the Japan/Australia Migratory Birds Treaty

I request:

- 1.) That the birds are given effective protection under the Act that overrides state laws.
- 2.) That all the coastal breeding colonies in all the states the shearwater breeds in be protected under the National Heritage Act.

3.) That the Federal Act must prescribe very tough penalties for the (illegal) poaching of the shearwater chicks.

I hope that you will give due consideration to my request for the protection of the amazing migratory short tailed shearwater.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs.) Mavis Rowlands