



Environment Communications and the Arts Committee
Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
The Senate
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT

16th August 2008

Dear Committee Members

SHEARWATERS/MUTTON BIRDS

It is clear that the Conservation Act of 1999 has failed to protect these birds in Tasmania.

It is estimated that over 156,000 chicks are slaughtered each year. This is unsustainable as just one chick per mature bird is born per annum. Shearwaters are battling increasing obstacles such as decreasing food supply and rougher global climatic conditions.

There is undoubted cruelty involved in the so-called 'recreational' season here in Tasmania. The method of dragging/hooking young birds from their burrows, swinging them around the hunter's head in an effort to break the bird's neck and then if this fails stamping on their heads is brutal. It is simple to obtain a licence and highly unlikely that an inexperienced person could execute the killing humanely. Poaching is rife. Thousands of birds must suffer terribly each year. I find this totally unacceptable and urge you to do all in your power to prohibit future seasons.

The Shearwater's coastal breeding and habitation grounds should be totally protected.

Species can quickly become depleted and we must act now to preserve these amazing majestic migratory birds. It is our duty to do no less.

Yours sincerely

Mary C. Clemons.