



**SOUTHERN BEACHES LANDCARE/COASTCARE INC.**

**C/- Post Office**

**DODGES FERRY TAS 7173**

ABN 59720014733

3rd October 2008

The Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

### **Caring for Our Country**

Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc. (SBL/C) has been the recipient of Envirofund monies to engage contactors and undertake vital on-ground works to protect and enhance the environment. SBL/C is a small group of volunteers caring for the coast in South East Tasmania; from Lewisham to Connelly's Marsh (30kms of coastline) since 1991.

Without these grants none of the projects would have been possible, it is beyond the scope of volunteer community groups to raise sufficient funds to undertake specialised works, such as construction of steps, removal of large invasive weed trees and fencing.

Grant monies have enabled SBL/C to develop strong mutually beneficial partnerships with many varied stakeholders. It has also enabled SBL/C to improve their skills, knowledge, safe work practices and share our knowledge with the wider community. Our in-kind contributions to projects often exceed the amount applied for, giving excellent 'value for money' for the government.

We find it hard to compete with larger organisations in the writing of grant applications, as a volunteer group our time and expertise in completing the applications is limited. Our projects are of a small scale in areas that are not significant to larger organisations but are significant to local communities.

We feel it is important that a small grants programme is retained to assist community groups in caring for our country. SBL/C would like to invite members of the committee to come and see some Envirofund project sites in our area.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Johns  
President