



Bird Observation & Conservation Australia

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2 May 2008

The Honourable David Llewellyn
Minister for Energy and Resources
Level 1, Public Buildings,
Franklin Square
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Minister

BRUNY ISLAND

BOCA is a national non-government organisation with more than 3000 members throughout Australia. BOCA's objectives may be summarised as appreciation, education and conservation relating to Australian birds and their habitat.

As you know, Bruny Island is extremely important for bird-related tourism, bringing large numbers of people to Tasmania. The Island supports all of Tasmania's endemic bird species and is well known as a place to seek many of the less common or difficult-to-sight species. BOCA organises tours to Bruny Island for the specific purpose of birdwatching and we know that many of our members organise their own trips there for that purpose. The major guide book 'Where to find birds in Australia' by John Bransbury devotes more than four pages to Bruny Island and in a recent popular publication by Sean Dooley, Bruny Island was listed as one of Australia's 10 'hot spots' for birdwatching. The island has also been chosen as one of only two Australian destinations in the book 'Fifty places to go birding before you die. Birding experts share the world's greatest destinations' by US author Chris Santella.

Given the importance of Bruny Island for bird conservation and bird-related tourism, BOCA has serious concerns about logging activities on the Island. You will be aware that about 18 months ago, logging contractors felled trees where nationally-endangered Swift Parrots were nesting; fortunately that was halted. BOCA's major concern now is the proposed logging in the Adventure Bay area, particularly the coupes close to Mavista Nature Reserve which is one of the most important areas to find birds on Bruny Island. Both this Reserve and the site near the top of Mount Mangana (which is now difficult for groups to access due to restrictions placed on vehicle size on the roads) are the best known sites for the endemic Scrubtit.

Helping today's birds survive tomorrow

BOCA believes that forest close to Mavista Nature Reserve should not be logged due to the potential impact on the fauna and flora of the Reserve as a result of exposure and edge effects. While Forestry Tasmania may be of the view that there will be no impact on the Reserve biota, BOCA maintains that the precautionary principle should apply. Logging so close to an internationally know birding hot-spot could also have a negative impact on nature-based tourism, which is so important for Bruny Island and Tasmania.

In summary, BOCA requests that the proposed logging close to Mavista Nature Reserve not proceed and that any proposals to carry out logging on Bruny Island be very carefully considered in the context of the Island's outstanding value for conservation and nature-based tourism.

Yours Sincerely

Tim Landsberg
President