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Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board

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Visitor Information Centre
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GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

August 4, 2014

The Hon Ian Hunter, MP
Minister for Sustainability, the Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide
South Australia 5001

Dear Minister

RE: Abolishing the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposal by the Premier to abolish all government committees and boards.

I have consulted with the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board and we are unanimous that the Board makes an important contribution to the effective functioning of the Sanctuary and that it should continue to exist.

The reasons we believe the ADS Advisory Board should continue to operate are as follows:

1. The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary is considered by many to be one of the best of its type in the world. This is mainly because it has an establishing Act which includes a Board reporting directly to the Minister and because the Board is responsible for the preparation of a management plan and its regular review.
2. The Board is made up of experts who provide advice on a variety of issues relating to the proper functioning of the ADS. I think it is fair to say that in every case this expertise is not available from within government.
3. The advice provided by the experts on the Board comes at an insignificant cost to the government (estimated at less than \$4K per annum). The alternative way of obtaining this advice would be to employ consultants, which would be much more expensive than operating the Board.
4. Although the Board is made up of experts many serve a double function as representative stakeholders on matters relating to the ADS. For example, recreational fishers, environmental groups, other recreational users of the area, tourism, shipping, and the Kaurua people.

5. The ADS achieves an unusual level of public acceptance partly because its Board is independent of the government and is able to provide frank advice to the Minister as and when required.
6. The popularity of dolphins and their presence on the city coastline ensures that threats to them will engender much community response. We believe it will be much more efficient for the government to manage such input via the ADS Board than to have numerous groups and organisations clamouring for the government's attention.
7. The dolphins of the ADS are an increasingly important tourism product. Mismanagement of the ADS because of a lack of expert advice could well jeopardise the continued existence of the dolphins in the local area.
8. The International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas will be held in Adelaide in November. Abolishing the Board would be an international embarrassment.

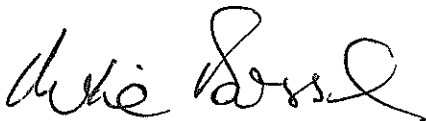
I would also like to offer two specific examples of how the Board made important contributions to the functioning of the Sanctuary and it is difficult to conceive that this would have happened in the absence of a Board:

- The fact that you were not made aware of the proposed underwater cable project from Yorke Peninsula which was to go through the heart of the Sanctuary despite this being a requirement of the Act.
- The Board also identified a severe deficiency in the planning system in that several Departments did not appear to be aware of their responsibilities under the Act.

We are unable to envisage any method better than the existing Advisory Board of providing informed, accurate and timely advice on the management of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary.

I would be very happy to meet with you to discuss any aspect of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mike Bossley
Presiding Member
Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board.