

*Submitted - For your inform.
Kees*

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October 10, 1984

The Honourable M.R. Hawke
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
Australia

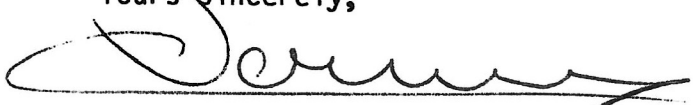
Dear Sir:

The Pacific Seabird Group, an international organization of biologists concerned with conservation and research of seabirds in the Pacific, is gravely concerned about the fate of the unique seabird fauna on North Keeling (Cocos Keeling).

Biologists who investigated seabird populations at North Keeling, informed us about the illegal shooting of thousands of frigatebirds and boobies by island residents. Seabirds already have been wiped out on the other 26 islands of the Cocos Keeling group, which are more accessible than North Keeling. The latter is the bird's last residence. If the shooting continues, seabird populations of Cocos Keeling will vanish too and the island will be much impoverished as a result.

The Pacific Seabird Group therefore urges your government to take the necessary legislative and enforcement measures so that present and future generations of Australians (and others) may enjoy the unique avifauna of Cocos Keeling. Even the islanders may appreciate one day the protection given to seabirds, as it may provide them with additional income from tourists visiting the island for its magnificent seabird diversity. Protection and preservation of the seabird resource of North Keeling today will stand as a monument of clear foresight and leadership of your government in the field of conservation tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Kees Vermeer,
Chairman,
Pacific Seabird Conservation Committee

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