

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Lora L. Leschner, PSG Chair
C/O Pt. Reyes Bird Observ.
4990 Shoreline Highway
Stinson Beach, California
USA 94970

Mr. G. Scholes
Minister for Territories
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Mr. Scholes,

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is a scientific organization composed of over 600 seabird researchers and conservationists from 16 countries, including Australia. Our group is dedicated to the study and conservation of Pacific seabirds and their environment.

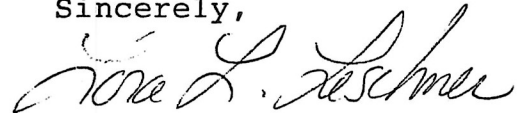
It has recently come to our attention that an important colony of breeding seabirds is being threatened by the actions of an Australian Government corporation. As you know, the Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island has proposed to mine the South Point Shore Terrace, an area of great interest to our group as a critical seabird breeding area.

Seabirds from Christmas range widely throughout the southern oceans when not on the breeding colony. It is for this reason the Australian Government joined with Japan in protecting several of these species under a migratory bird treaty. They represent a biological resource for which the Australian Government is only a steward. While we recognize the need to maintain employment for Christmas Islanders, we are concerned that actions by the Corporation will do irreparable damage to this biological (and geological) resource of local, national and international value.

On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group, I wish to express our concern over proposed actions of the Phosphate Mining Corporation and urge you to stop the mining at South Point Shore Terrace.

I thank you for your attention and await your reply with interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lora L. Leschner".

Lora L. Leschner, Chair
Pacific Seabird Group

cc Senator G. Jones