

- 6 JAN 1987

Ms L.L. Leschner
Chair
Pacific Seabird Group
C/- Pt Reyes Bird Observ.
4990 Shoreline Highway
Stinson Beach
CALIFORNIA 94970
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Ms Leschner

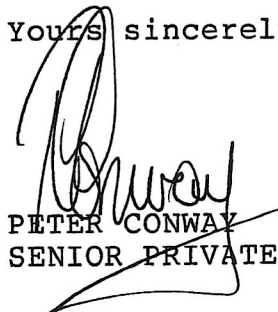
I have been asked to reply to your letter of 18 November 1986 bringing to the Minister's attention proposals to clear for mining the western terrace of South Point on Christmas Island. I understand that you have also written to the Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS), in similar terms.

The Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island has withdrawn its application for approval to clear the western shore terrace and adopted a revised corporate strategy involving reduced production of phosphate.

Proposals to clear vegetation for mining purposes on Christmas Island require the prior approval of the Government Conservator on the Island. If, at any stage, a proposal to clear the western shore terrace is resubmitted, ANPWS would seek Mr Cohen's view. The Minister has indicated that it would be necessary to conduct an appropriate assessment under the provisions of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act before a decision is made.

Thank you for your interest in the conservation of Christmas Island, one of the world's great seabird islands.

Yours sincerely



PETER CONWAY
SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY