



[REDACTED]
GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENT GROUP
PAYNESVILLE, VIC, 3875

info@geg.org.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your 27 January 2023 letter to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, concerning the proposed residential subdivision on the foreshore of Point Fullarton, Paynesville. Minister Plibersek has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework for the protection and management of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Under the EPBC Act, actions that have or are likely to have a significant impact on MNES require approval from the Minister, or her delegate, before they can proceed.

The department has noted the information you have provided regarding the project and its potential for impacts on the EPBC Act migratory listed Latham Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) and the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site.

The department has written to the person proposing the action to inform them of their obligations under the EPBC Act, and understands that the project will be referred for a decision on whether approval is required. After the department receives a valid referral, the referral will be published on the department's website for public consultation for 10 business days. You may wish to make a submission to this process.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Short
Branch Head
Environment Assessments (Vic and Tas) and Post Approvals Branch

17 July 2023