



The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Dear Dr Hawke

As you may be aware, the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts is undertaking an inquiry into the operation of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Committee has indicated to the Senate that it will present its report in two parts – the first due on 18 March 2009 and the second due on 24 April 2009.

I anticipate that the Committee's report will provide a useful source of information on the operation of the EPBC Act since its commencement in July 2000. To this effect I request that you consider the Committee's report, including its findings and recommendations, in undertaking your independent review of the EPBC Act.

I look forward to considering your report on the operation of the EPBC Act and the extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved later this year.

I have copied this letter to Senator Anne McEwen, Chair of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Peter Garrett AM