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Secretary: Jenny Bicanic 03 6352 2478

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Scottsdale

Tasmania 7260

**A submission to The Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill 2012 to be considered
by Committee**

To Whom It May Concern,

At the last meeting of the Ansons Bay Progress association, it was unanimously agreed that we should write our concerns about the aboriginal people being in charge of Eddystone Point. Many of our members have been visiting the area for up to 70 years and believe it is our history too. Members have observed that aboriginal interest has only been for a fraction of that time.

The light was a local icon, visible to all and in certain conditions would reflect off the Bay. One member told how, before we had electricity, she held out lighting the gaslight until she could discern the flash from the lighthouse. Members told of seeing dead mutton-birds but only single figures and not the exaggerated numbers published. As the last working light in Tasmania, it should be made into a tourist attraction.

Members are concerned with their being any restrictive access particularly to the Gulch area where many local fishermen put their boats in.


There was also concern for the care of the buildings. Regular visitors witnessed the shocking mutilation of the buildings after aboriginal people first took over the area. Although a lot of money has been spent on refurbishing, **care of European heritage will never be a value of this culture.**

To that end, if aboriginal people do continue to inhabit the area, there will need to be long term sustainable strict controls and supervision by an outside body such as the National Trust.

We request:

- **Care of the buildings and the grave**
- **Continued access except for short term advertised closures for agreed cultural celebrations.**

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Bicanic', written in a cursive style.

(Mrs) Jenny Bicanic

Honorary Secretary

Ansons Bay Progress Association