

Minister for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Parks and Environment

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Mr Mark Shelton  
Member for Lyons  
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly  
email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Shelton

I write in response to a question raised in Parliament on behalf of your constituents on 7 August 2024 to Minister Abetz, Minister for Business, Industry and Resources. Your question has been referred to me as Minister for Parks and Environment as it relates to the listing status of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) (SBT).

As you may be aware SBT was listed as critically endangered in December 2010 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). At the time the species was suffering from what has been described as “intense exploitation” from commercial fisheries globally.

I am pleased to advise, however, that in July this year the Federal Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek, wrote to me and advised that she had decided to remove SBT from the threatened species list under the EPBC Act. Advice from the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee found it was no longer eligible for listing due to population recovery. The committee attributed this largely to the impact of international management under the Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

This result is pleasing news for both the fishery and our fishers and highlights the positive impact of conservation and recovery efforts. I am advised Australia actively manages the risk of future overexploitation through strong international policy on the Southern Bluefin Tuna and engagement with the CCSBT.

Thank you again for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nick Duigan MLC  
**Minister Parks and Environment**