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Committee Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Hobart 7000     24/06/2013

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Hon. Kerry Finch MLC,  
Chairperson,

**Legislative Council committee inquiring into Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill  
2012**

Dear Honourable Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Committee.

My family's association with Eddystone Point and the Northeast corner of Tasmania stretches back six generations with my great grandfather, Isaac Daw, being buried in the cemetery at Gladstone and my grandchildren still enjoy many holidays at our shack at Ansons Bay.

Other connections with the area include:

Two uncles and one cousin lived at and fished for crayfish professionally from Eddystone Point.

One cousin who lived at and fished for abalone professionally at Eddystone Point,

One uncle on my mother's side was a relief lighthouse keeper at Eddystone Point.

My grandmother's maiden name was Ida Mallinson whose forbears were the first European owners of land on the western side of Anson's Bay as well as other land around Gladstone.

As you can see I have a very close connection with Eddystone Point and the surrounding area.

One of my concerns if this land hand-back goes ahead is broadly the cost to the tax payer and loss of income to the Government, Council and general community.

**If the land is handed to the Aboriginal Land Council (A.L.C.):**

The tax payer will likely be responsible for all future maintenance such as the \$374,000 to repair the burnt verandahs and repairs to the roofs and kitchens of the houses and the \$750,000 grant before the government at present, as well as the \$3.5 million the A.L.C. want to **start** developing the site.

Access to the Lighthouse is restricted and access to the houses is nonexistent.

**If the site was sold to a tourist developer:**

The government would receive the sale price and future taxes, the council would receive rates, the community would have some badly needed employment and the developer would likely be responsible for future development and infrastructure costs.

The sale could include some appropriate conditions so the integrity of the site is maintained and all visitors would have pedestrian and or vehicle access to the lighthouse and dwellings, particularly for the elderly and physically handicapped.

An almost immediate development could be similar to Cape Leeuwin in Western Australia.

One house could be developed into an office, museum and quarters for some staff and the remaining houses turned into accommodation for paying guests.

Future developments could include a caravan park, fishing charters, boat trips to see the wind farm at Musselroe Bay, coffee shop and more accommodation for guests and staff.

## Heritage Listing

**Evidently the whole site of 10.4ha and all the buildings are listed as being of European heritage importance.**

**Because of the number of ship wrecks occurring around Banks Strait and St Helens. The Tasmanian and Victorian Governments in 1887 contracted Tasmanian planers and craftsmen to design and build the light house and associated infrastructure.**

**If any visitor cares to visit these buildings and the quarry where the granite was sourced they will see what marvelous ingenuity and craftsmanship it took to build these structures and why they are of important heritage value to us.**

**In my opinion this Heritage listing raises another set of issues, which I will not detail here except to say I have grave concerns about A.L.C. maintaining the status and integrity of any European heritage listed site and allowing the community access to it.**

**In speaking to the last lighthouse keeper, he informed me that when he worked there he would religiously every year paint the head stone and fence then clear the surrounding area of Walter McFarlane Kirkwood's grave. As far as I am aware this and other maintenance has not been done since the lighthouse has been unmanned and needs some attention as soon as possible.**

**Although I am against the Eddystone Point site being given to the A.L.C., I am not against working with the Aboriginal community to further their cause and bring their culture to the fore. This could be achieved by combining tours of Aboriginal sites around Eddystone Point and Bay of Fires area and possible boat trips to Cape Barren Island to further Aboriginal culture and understanding by the general public.**

**These cultural journeys should be run by the A.L.C. for their benefit and could be run with the assistance and cooperation of the developer. However, to achieve this I believe there needs to be a major shift in the attitude of the A.L.C. and the government.**

**At present there seems to be no recognition by the State Government or the A.L.C. that Eddystone Point is listed as being of very important European heritage value. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that the listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register contains no reference to any aboriginal heritage significance.**

**I submit that the Government has failed dismally to consult with those who have a particular interest in the area, or with the general public, in regard to this proposed hand- back.**

**Yours sincerely  
Lindsay Dawe**