

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

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Tasmania.

To Whom It May Concern,

I have strong concerns about the built history at Eddystone Point and the continuing access for all. I have been a regular visitor to the area for 35 years. My family has a shack at Ansons Bay and from there I visited many times identifying shells, birds and native orchids. I shared the bird interest with Chris and John Denman, the lighthouse keepers of the time.

In the early 1990s, I also initiated School camps in the area for several years. We hired the middle cottage from the National Authority in Melbourne and set up tents in the yard. The children studied the Lighthouse history, the geography and the natural science but, interestingly enough, I had no knowledge of any profile of aboriginal history at that time.

Because I was aware of the condition of the buildings at that earlier time, I was horrified to witness, first hand, the denigration that occurred when the aboriginal people first moved into the buildings. Consequently, despite the money that has been spent there in more recent times to tidy the area, I have little faith in the long term care unless there are strict controls and supervision.

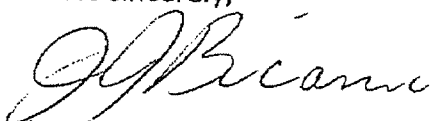
I recently read a journal by caretakers on Deal Island and noted their care of graves. Last time I looked, the child's grave at Eddystone Point was a disgrace.

While there are obvious middens either side of Eddystone Point, there is considerable debate about whether there was a camp site at the actual point because of how exposed it would have been and that there is no fresh water just there. It would make sense to build an aboriginal centre somewhere more appropriate in the Park and use the Lighthouse area for a tourist venture.

However if aboriginal people are to continue at Eddystone Point, they need to take responsibility for the built history or cooperate with some other body. I hope there will be long term sustainable strict controls and supervision particularly in regard to:

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

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs) Jenny Bicanic