

Returning to the specific matter of Venus Bay, I understand that in April, you may have received advice from the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) concerning the status of the developer's proposal in light of the Bass Coast Shire Council's development of a Coastal Management Plan for the Andersons Inlet area.

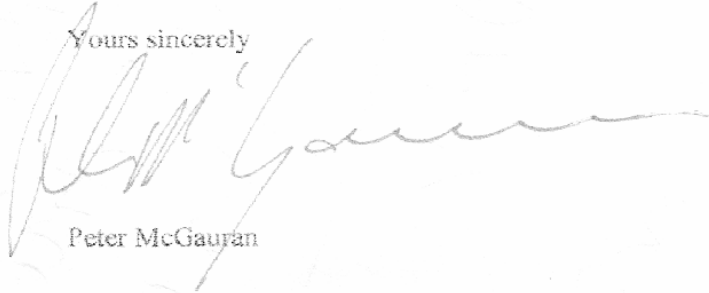
I am also informed that DEH's advice to you, referred to the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and that the developer had indicated their intention to refer their proposal to DEH as it currently stands, regardless of their final plans to proceed with the development or otherwise.

It would appear that all the relevant processes are now in place to ensure that the important issues you have raised are carefully examined at both the local and national level, should the development proposal be pursued by the proponent.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. It provides an excellent illustration of the importance of clear and accurate scientific advice to inform planning and resource management decisions. The Australian Government is providing record funding to maintain and enhance our scientific capacity in this regard.

I will be interested to learn, in due course, of the results of any environmental assessment processes that are undertaken by the parties involved in the Venus Bay proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peter McGauran', written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Peter McGauran