



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMBER FOR FARRER**

MC21-001664

25 MAR 2021

Ms Margaret Moorhouse
Secretary
Alliance to Save Hinchinbrook
PO Box 2457
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

hinchinbrookforever@gmail.com

Dear Ms Moorhouse

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 March 2021 concerning a proposed helicopter operations base (development application MCU20/0006) at Mission Beach in Queensland and its potential impacts on the endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*).

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) establishes a rigorous and transparent regulatory framework for protecting nationally important environmental matters, including listed threatened species such as the Southern Cassowary. Where a proposal is likely to have a significant impact on matters protected by national environment law, assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required.

I note your request for me to exercise my power under section 70 of the EPBC Act to request Mission Helicopters Pty Ltd to refer the proposal. I understand that the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has provided information to Mission Helicopters Pty Ltd regarding the relevant requirements of the EPBC Act and the process for referring a proposed development. The company has advised that it is aware of its obligations under the EPBC Act and will seek advice from the department when appropriate.

The department will continue to work closely with Mission Helicopters Pty Ltd to ensure it complies with national environmental law and protects the environment, and in particular the Southern Cassowary.

Thank you for again bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

SUSSAN LEY

