



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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Christine McDonald
Secretary, Environment and Communications Legislative Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

28 February 2019

Dear Secretary,

Re: Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Environment Legislation Amendment (Protecting Dugongs and Turtles) Bill 2019 - Invitation to make a submission

Humane Society International (HSI) is a not-for-profit organisation concerned with the protection and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity. HSI seeks to create an ecologically sustainable and humane world for all animals and their environments. We have more than 24 years' experience in promoting the enhancement and protection of wildlife and their habitats in Australia. HSI makes this submission on behalf of our more than 10 million supporters globally including 70,000 in Australia.

HSI has a significant track record in protecting Australia's precious marine environment through species and ecological community listings as well as working on domestic fisheries bycatch and other matters. Whilst HSI is not opposed to genuine subsistence hunting, we consider that it must be both ecologically sustainable and humane.

HSI therefore supports the proposal as put forward in the *Environment Legislation Amendment (Protecting Dugongs and Turtles) Bill 2019*, as the Bill seeks to put in place a legislative regime for subsistence hunting with full consideration of the impacts this form of hunting has on dugongs and turtle population levels, as well as to minimise cruelty imposed on these species during these hunts, ensuring they are treated as humanely as possible.

Yours sincerely

Alexia Wellbelove
Senior Program Manager

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