**PETITION LETTER**

The Hon Lilian (Lily) D’Ambrosio

Minister Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Level 36, 121 Exhibition St

Melbourne VIC 3000

**RE: Balloted Hog Deer Hunting Snake Island**

I/We (insert name/organization) were extremely disappointed that you have taken the decision to allow balloted hunting on Snake Island. The fact that the decision was taken without consultation with the current users groups and the local community is unforgivable and flies in the face good government and robust democratic processes.

If you had consulted, then you would have been made aware of the serious implications of mixing hunting activities on a relative small island that is accessed by a multitude of existing user group, tourism and education companies and individuals.

The major issues are:

1. The obvious issue of public safety and the potential for series injury where firearms are concerned.
2. Other users being excluded from island during hunting events
3. Reduced potential to develop additional eco-tourism activities
4. The island is recognized as an environment of national significance under the RAMSAR convention and Hog Deer pre-existed the declaration.
5. From Spring to Autumn, thousands of migratory wading birds arrive in the wetlands to shelter to feed and hunting is likely to disrupt these birds.
6. Hog Deer are currently listed as a globally endangered species.
7. The Hog Deer population has been stable for many years and not subject to population explosions as has occurred with other species of deer.
8. A management plan for the island has not been developed and therefore no baseline data exists against which to evaluate the impact of hunting.
9. Hunters can practice their sport on Boole Poole and Blonde Bay State game reserves, Sunday Island private game reserve and/or as part of the open season in April each year.
10. Adverse impact on the local economy from reduced tourism activity

Any one of the above issues should have been enough to justify a cautious approach in coming to the decision to allow recreational hunting.

We respectfully request you to review your decision with the view the suspending its implementation until all these issue can be satisfactorily resolved

Yours Sincerely

Insert Name

Insert address