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Dear petitioner

I am writing in response to your email of 5 April 2017 to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, expressing your concerns regarding the proposed rodent eradication program on Lord Howe Island. The Minister has forwarded your correspondence to me for response.

In relation to the various concerns which you have identified in your email, I would like to assure you that the planning and approvals stage of the program is still underway and your concerns will be addressed during this process.

An application has been made by the Lord Howe Island Board (Board) to the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) for the off label use of the rodent bait, brodifacoum, in accordance with the proposed method of bait dispersal. A Public Environment Report which addresses impacts on threatened species has been publicly exhibited and now reported to the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy for assessment of the proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

In relation to human health and safety, the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer has overseen a comprehensive human health risk assessment of the proposed eradication program. I understand that work has now been completed and will shortly be released.

I would like to assure you that the rodent eradication program will not proceed on Lord Howe Island without the necessary approvals at both the Federal and State levels, the completion of the human health risk assessment and the appropriate management and mitigation of all risks.

For any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact the Board's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Penny Holloway, on 02 6563 2066.

Yours sincerely



Tim Hurst
Acting Chief Executive



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