

Commonwealth of Australia

Exemption under section 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

I, **Peter Garrett**, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, being satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so, hereby exempt, under section 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the persons specified in this notice, from the application of all of the provisions of Part 3 and Chapter 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in relation to the action specified in this notice.

Specified persons

- The Director of National Parks; and
- any person authorised, directed or requested by the Director of National Parks to take the specified action.

Specified action

The establishment and operation of a captive breeding program for the Christmas Island Blue-Tailed Skink (*Cryptoblepharus egeriae*) and the Christmas Island Forest Skink (*Emoia nativitatis*), as recommended by the Christmas Island Expert Working Group Revised Interim Report including but not limited to:

- immediate capture of sufficient animals on Christmas Island to establish a breeding colony;
- capture of sufficient animals on Christmas Island to maintain a breeding colony;
- construction of breeding facilities to house the animals on Christmas Island;
- movement of animals to breeding facilities that will house them outside Christmas Island;
- captive husbandry within the breeding facilities; and
- release of animals from the breeding facilities back to natural habitat on Christmas Island.

This exemption takes effect on the date of this notice.



Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Dated this Seventh day of July 2009