Dear Ms Dale

Conservation Agreement between Eurobodalla Shire Council and the Commonwealth of Australia for the protection and conservation of Grey-headed Flying-fox at Batemans Bay NSW

I refer to the recent collaboration of the Department and the Eurobodalla Shire Council to develop a Conservation Agreement for the management of the vulnerable Grey-headed Flying-fox (Pteropus poliocephalus) and its habitat at Batemans Bay, NSW. I note development of a Conservation Agreement was a requirement of the National Interest Exemption granted by the former Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) on 17 May 2016.

I appreciate Eurobodalla Shire Council's efforts and commitment to implement a range of management actions for the protection of the Grey-headed Flying-fox and value the fact that Council is taking a more strategic approach to management of the species in the region.

Under Section 305 of the EPBC Act, I have, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia, agreed to enter into a Conservation Agreement with the Eurobodalla Shire Council for the protection and conservation of the Grey-headed Flying-fox at Batemans Bay. I am satisfied that the implementation of the conservation strategies contained in the Conservation Agreement will result in a net conservation benefit for the species.

A signed copy of the document is enclosed for your records. Please note that a copy of the Conservation Agreement will be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely

Matt Cahill
First Assistant Secretary
Environment Standards Division

22 September 2016