

May 1st 2019

From:

Heritage Estate Community Network,
Birdlife Shoalhaven;
Jervis Bay Regional Alliance;
National Parks Association - Milton Ulladulla and
Australian Conservation Foundation - Shoalhaven Branch

To:

Mayor Shoalhaven City Council, Amanda Findley,
All Councillors: Clrs. J Gash, P White, J Wells, J Levett, K Gartner, N Digiglio, A Alldrick, G Watson, A Guile, M
Pakes, R Proudfoot, M Kitchener
Acting General Manager, Stephen Dunshea

The following resolution of council has come to our attention and been given due consideration. **The resolution was first taken at a meeting of the Strategies & Assets Committee as SA 19.24 of March 12 2019 then proceeded to the March Ordinary Meeting as SA 19.24 Report of Strategies and Assets Committee where it was again resolved as follows:**

- “3. Commit to ongoing priority be given to resolving Hyams Beach challenges through continued investigation of long-term solutions as follows:***
- i. Actively pursue options for parking outside of Hyams Beach Village with walk in and/or a shuttle bus service, with preference given to two identified potential sites owned by Jerrinja Land Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service respectively.***

We would express to you our most serious concern with that element of the resolution that proposes the ‘investigation’ and ‘active pursuit’ of an option involving the use of land ‘owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service’. This can only be land in Jervis Bay National Park.

We utterly reject, object to and protest the concept of loss or use of such National Parks land, especially to the purpose of a tourist car park off-site from Hyams Beach. In principle, the concept is absolutely unacceptable. In practice, as resolved, it is without sensibility and represents a serious intrusion by the council into the use and tenure of national park estate environment.

We note in meeting agenda attachments, the complete absence of any background information in any form as advice for councilors in making the decision in either meeting. That was also a feature in the discussion and debate by councilors in the meetings which absolutely ignored consideration of the serious issues involved in this resolution.

We also note from advice we have received in response to our enquiries that there has not been appropriate consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We further note that the national park land affected is in the immediate precinct of four neighboring properties which have been the subject of long term, recent and continuing consolidation toward an enhanced Jervis Bay National Park, which not only supports further development of the integrity and biodiversity of that Park but of the habitat corridor values for Booderee National Park. The local and broader Shoalhaven communities have been very active over many years in the advancement of this conservation. Any intrusion into existing Jervis Bay National Park will create some degree of unacceptable disruption and damage.

The land in question is also in the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area, which is part of the Australian network of such areas recognized in an international partnership of conservation organizations with BirdLife Australia.

The Strategic Plan of the Hyams Beach Villagers Association CCB indicates that the “community vision has a focus on limiting further damage to the things most valued about the village and its surrounds . . .” Their ‘Plan - Key Strategies’ include “Protecting and preventing damage to the natural environment”, recognizing that “*The key environmental assets of Hyams Beach village are undoubtedly its location surrounded by both Jervis Bay Marine and Jervis Bay NSW National Parks.*” The Strategic Plan notes that “The village lies within a diverse set of ecosystems. . . and there is strong support within the community for the biodiversity within these systems to be protected.” The proposal to consider use of the Jervis Bay National Park as espoused in the council resolutions is a contradiction of these sentiments and intent.

We propose to you that the only correct course of action can be for Councillors to act to remove the clause and our organizations call on you to ensure that proceeds.

Yours

Chris Grounds on behalf of

Chris Grounds for the Heritage Estate Community Network,
Rob Dunn for Birdlife Shoalhaven,
Oisin Sweeney for Jervis Bay Regional Alliance,
Brigette Nairn for National Parks Association - Milton Ulladulla and
Terry Barrett for Australian Conservation Foundation – Shoalhaven Branch.

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