



P O Box 295 Vincentia NSW 2540 | [www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org](http://www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org) | [shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au](mailto:shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au)

BirdLife Shoalhaven is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited ABN 75 149 124 774

February 11 2020

To:

Mayor Amanda Findley,

Clrs. Gash, Wells, White, Gartner, Digiglio, Alldrick, Levett, Guile, Pakes, Watson, Proudfoot, Kitchner;

C E O Mr.S. Dunshea

BirdLife Australia (BLA) is Australia's largest bird conservation organisation. For over a century its members have protected birds and their habitats through practical conservation and advocacy based on the best available science. BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) is a branch of BLA with 700 members and supporters. BLS has a number of interactions with Council in recent years by way of projects, presentations, submissions and deputations with both Council staff and councillors.

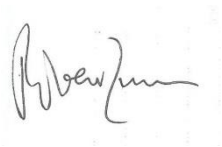
The BLS Committee held the quarterly meeting on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> and agreed to contact you given our recent experiences and thinking with bushfire in the Shoalhaven. The latest BLS quarterly magazine devoted a major feature section to the bushfires and the subsequent circumstance and implications. The 2020 Summer Edition of our magazine with the Bushfire feature can be viewed as a PDF at:

<http://www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org/magazines.html>

BLS is already involved with the Water and Feeding Stations Sub-committee of Council. BLS is aware from published agenda and minutes that various items of business have been and will be considered which relate to and involve the various habitats of birds across the Shoalhaven. It is clear there will have been a massive loss of birdlife. Our own research has established that the fire affected area is a mosaic of burn impact, which includes zones of refugia for fauna including birds, that all ecologies are represented and that there is a clearly defined area of the Shoalhaven, specifically in the north-east, that did not suffer impact and which now constitutes a major zone of refugia.

BLS wish to simply present the case that we believe habitat issues have changed irrevocably for the foreseeable future, perhaps even beyond such a point, and Council considerations and decisions will need to reflect this. BLS appreciates that council is not the only authority involved and that there are range of contexts to be considered, vis. urban, peri-urban and rural.

BLS offers our support in that endeavour and if we can be of any assistance to council be it councillors or staff or with the community we will be happy to be involved.



**Rob Dunn**  
**President**  
**0438 250600 - [president@birdlifeshoalhaven.org](mailto:president@birdlifeshoalhaven.org)**

*Chris Grounds*

**Christopher Grounds**  
**Conservation Officer**  
**0401 137158 – [solum306@gmail.com](mailto:solum306@gmail.com)**

*Birdlife Shoalhaven acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the Shoalhaven, their care of country, birds and habitat and pays respects to all Elders.*