



Mr Russ Pigg
General Manager
Shoalhaven City Council
P.O. Box 42
Nowra NSW 2541

23 March 2016

Dear Mr Pigg

**Lady Denman Reserve
Exhibition Draft - Strategic Business and Master Plan**

BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) wishes to make a submission on the Lady Denman Reserve Exhibition Draft - Strategic Business and Master Plan.

BLS was established in November 2013 to advocate for the conservation of birds and their habitats and promote the appreciation and understanding of birds across the Shoalhaven. BLS is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited, which is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with over 12,000 members and 70,000 supporters.

The Jervis Bay Maritime Museum precinct includes a mangrove boardwalk as a return walk through the mangrove community to the Currumbene Creek estuary. This has long been one of the main outdoor attractions of the museum and is a very well-known facility of some considerable interest, combining marine and estuarine ecology with a rich variety of birdlife.

BLS supports the extension of this boardwalk as part of the Master Plan to develop outdoor facilities at the museum. The extension would involve building a new boardwalk on the outside edge of the mangrove (as shown below), joining the museum area adjacent to the existing pond to the platform at the end of the existing boardwalk. This would provide a boardwalk circuit with a greatly enhanced perspective of the estuarine. BLS would acknowledge though that such a project would clearly need to be subject to formal consideration of environmental impact.



BLS believes such a facility would significantly increase visitation to the museum by tourists and the local community and provide a known facility for nature observation, education and enjoyment in the Jervis Bay context.

BLS would also note that this area is immediately adjacent to the Jervis Bay 'Important Bird Area', which is part of an international system of declared areas of especially important birdlife. It is also immediately opposite the Myola Spit, a zoned Environment Conservation 1 area, equivalent to a National Park, and the most important area for sand bird resting in Jervis Bay. Threatened domestic and migratory species feature in this area along with a range of other interesting water and shorebirds.

We would also like to bring to your attention that our proposed extension of the boardwalk is also supported in a separate submission by the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum Fleet section.

Yours sincerely

Brett Davis
Secretary
BirdLife Shoalhaven