

Independent Planning Commission NSW
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To Commission members,

Objection to Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406

I strongly object to the **Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406** and recommend that the Independent Planning Commission refuses it.

I am a resident of Culburra Beach and believe the environmental and culture significance of Lake Wollumboola should be preserved for future generations. I teach HSC level Environmental Science at a local High School and have a high level of scientific knowledge on the issues surrounding the lake. I regularly run Marine Studies and Environmental Science excursions to the lake. This area is unique in the Shoalhaven for the following reasons

- Biodiversity. Lake Wollumboola is a significant site of biodiversity. A golf course built on the shores of the lake will compromise this biodiversity. As habitat destruction becomes more common along the east coast it becomes even more important that habitats are preserved to accommodate our unique flora and fauna. Erosion and contaminated runoff from the golf course will compromise this biodiversity.
- Area of cultural significance. Middens have been found on the lake shores which indicate a strong relationship between lake and its traditional owners. We should take all precautions to preserve our environment as it has been for thousands of years.
- Underlying geology. Geological studies indicate the bedrock is basalt in composition, as opposed the surrounding sedimentary rock present in other parts of the Shoalhaven. Basalt rock is said to give the Lake some of its unique properties. I believe this special geology make it more important to preserve the lake and its surrounding catchment.
- A special place for education. The lake provides a location in which students can learn about this unique sanctuary, which will be compromised with the development of a golf course.

Golf courses in the Shoalhaven are struggling to survive. Golf membership is low, and using existing courses in the Shoalhaven as a guide, golf courses are no longer economically viable, without the needs for poker machines in the clubhouse. The following points should be taken into consideration before planning another golf course in the Shoalhaven

- The number of golf courses in the Shoalhaven already outstrips members. As quoted from the South Coast Register (South Coast Register, September 4, 2011). Quote 'Head golf professional at Worrigeer Links Robert Nancarrow said there was already a saturation of courses in the Shoalhaven.' "Everyone is battling to get members," he said.
- Nowra Golf club and Callala Golf club have recently been taken over by clubs with large profits due to poker machines. There is no doubt a golf club at Culburra Beach would not be economically viable. A course in Worrigeer was shut down over a decade ago due to lack of membership. This site is still left vacant.
- Golf courses are only viable in the Shoalhaven with the aid of a club house and poker machines. This is not something the community of Culburra Beach wants or needs.
- Golf courses service only a small number of community members. The environmental impact would far outweigh the community benefit.

It is clear that there is no place for a golf course on the shores of Lake Wollumboola. It does not make any sense environmentally, nor economically. This is no something the local community wants or needs. I hope the planning commission refuses the proposal at Lake Wollumboola based on the presented evidence.

Nick Garner,

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