

Karyn Knowles

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Independent Planning Commission NSW

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To Commission members,

Objection to Long Bow point Golf Course SSD 8406

1. I strongly object to the Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406 and recommend that the Independent Planning Commission refuse it.
2. I have lived in Silvermere St Culburra Beach permanently since January 1973 as a resident, business owner (retired) parent, teacher, community volunteer across environmental, educational, humanitarian and creative interests. I have had an abiding interest in the preservation of the catchment of and correspondingly the entity, Lake Wollumboola, a remarkable example of an east coast ICOLL (intermittent opening and closing lake) over that time.
3. This proposal for an unnecessary Championship or otherwise golf course in the catchment of the Lake is inappropriate, overrated and unwise. I value Lake Wollumboola because both the Lake and its catchment help put us on the tourist map! Eco tourism is one of the strengths of the City of Shoalhaven and this water body has excellent natural and cultural conservation value.
4. AND information readily available, tells us that the Lake is listed under Australian legislation and international migratory bird agreements as internationally significant habitat for migratory birds. There is further recognition of this natural area by Birdlife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature as a globally important Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) particularly for Black Swan and Chestnut Teal. Decades of documentation show that it supports numerous species including some 23 Threatened species. The lake, sandbar and parts of its catchment are included in Jervis Bay National Park. These benchmarks are not acquired without good cause. They constitute a value that is embedded in our economy. Our economy has to put a price on natural places; if we do not include the air, the land the sea the flora and fauna as part of the whole economy we actually devalue humanity and underestimate our role as responsible decision makers. Yes. It's that important.
5. Here are some defining objections to this particular DA:
 - i) Locating a golf course in the Lake Wollumboola catchment ignores consistent, long term expert advice and NSW Government policy that the Lake catchment especially Long Bow Point, is unsuitable for urban development and should be zoned for "Environment Protection."
 - ii) It is known that the natural surface and ground water runoff from Long Bow Point and surrounds is critical in maintaining the Lake's water quality, its wetlands and aquatic environment and abundant wildlife.
 - iii) Where in the DA is there demonstration that no adverse impacts on the lake's ecology would occur as a result of pollution of surface and ground water from inevitable golf course fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides?
 - iv) Were potential impacts on the Lake, the catchment and its wildlife adequately assessed? An absence of such evidence should be deemed inadequate for permission to develop.

I conclude by humbly commending a refusal of this DA by the independent commisioners. I always thought Long Bow Point could be an ideal location, location, location for the Halloran Coastal Field Studies & Education Centre. With the proximity of the Scots School Bannockburn Campus this could be a great fit. I also however look forward to hearing about other DAs , OUTSIDE the catchment of Lake Wollumboola; especially as there could already be cleared areas of Halloran Trust land available in less vulnerable locations.

Yours sincerely Karyn Knowles