

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express the opposition of myself and Milton-Ulladulla Birdwatchers group to the **Modification 3 of the Narrawallee residential subdivision, MP 06_0276 MOD 3. Narrawallee Residential Subdivision Modification 3 –D551-19**

We are opposed to the proposal because of the further loss of native bushland and associated bird habitat.

Back in the 1990s it was clearly understood that there was to be left a 'green' corridor at least between Ulladulla and Narrawallee.

The concept of 'green belts' is that a ring of countryside where urbanisation will be resisted for the foreseeable future, maintaining an area where agriculture, forestry and outdoor leisure can be expected to prevail. The fundamental aim of a green belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, and consequently the most important attribute of green belts is their openness.

There are five stated purposes of including land within the green belt:

- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Once an area of land has been defined as green belt, opportunities and benefits include:

- Providing opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population
- Providing opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation near urban areas
- The retention of attractive landscapes and the enhancement of landscapes, near to where people live
- Improvement of damaged and derelict land around towns
- The securing of nature conservation interests
- The retention of land in agricultural, forestry and related uses.



1950;



1979;



1997

Conspicuously, since the 1990s and especially since about 2005, these guidelines have been ignored. There has been systematic clearing of this 'green' corridor for housing development. Over the past few months this has reached epic and wanton proportions especially between the Princes Highway and the Hilltop Golf Course, near the junction of Matron Porter Drive, Bishop Drive and Garside Road and off Leo Drive. In the case of the Leo Drive clearances, the development abuts onto a nature reserve – Garrads Reserve (see photos 1 and 2).



Photo 1



Photo 2

Now, the last stand of vegetation is also apparently about to be removed (photos 3, 4 and 5).



Photo 3;



Photo 4;



Photo 5

Throughout Australia, great steps have been taken in recent years to preserve nature corridors along roads, both for vegetation diversity and for biodiversity generally and especially for allowing birds and other fauna to travel freely. This proposed modification will remove even more precious vegetation. All this in the Ulladulla to Conjola area is going by the board and to an absurd extent.

This region is valued by its residents for its natural qualities and biodiversity. Now, this tranquillity and biodiversity are being shattered in the name of development. Already there has been a considerable decline in the variety of the flora and fauna. This is all against a background of wide concern about climate change and the impact of the removal of natural vegetation.

When native vegetation is cleared for agriculture, habitats which were once continuous become divided into separate fragments. After intensive clearing, the separate fragments tend to be very small islands isolated from each other by crop land and pasture. In some regions of Australia, such as the wheat-belt of central western New South Wales, 90% of the native vegetation has been cleared, resulting in extreme habitat fragmentation.

Small fragments of habitat can only support small populations of fauna and small populations of fauna are more vulnerable to extinction. Fragments of habitat that are separated from each other are unlikely to be re-colonised.

Furthermore, small fragments of habitat do not contain interior habitat. Habitat along the edge of a fragment has a different climate and favours different species to the interior. Small fragments are therefore unfavourable for those species which require interior habitat and may lead to the extinction of those species.

One popular solution to the problem of habitat fragmentation is to link the fragments by planting corridors of native vegetation. This has the potential to solve the problem of isolation but not the loss of interior habitat. Another solution is to enlarge small remnants in order to increase the amount of interior habitat, but this would be at the expense of reducing the degree of isolation.

It appears that the preservation of natural habitat and biodiversity have been given insufficient weight in the decision to support this modification.

It would be a step in the right direction if this stand of trees at least, was to be kept intact.

Yours truly

Geoffrey Andrews

cc Shelley Hancock MLA

Ann Sudmalis MP