



Illawarra Birders Inc. [REDACTED]

Objection to Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406

Dear Commission Members,

Illawarra Birders Inc. are a group with over 100 members based in the Illawarra Region of NSW. Lake Wollumboola is included within the boundaries of the area that the Illawarra Birders call local. It is an area where the club often organizes group walks. Our most recent walk was a pop-up walk scheduled due the recent rare bird sightings at the lake. These sightings and the number of birds regularly seen at the lake are strong indicators at the current good health of the lake and its surrounds.

Illawarra Birders Inc. strongly object to the **Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406** and recommend that the Independent Planning Commission refuse it.

Our members regularly visit Lake Wollumboola and treasure the pristine natural areas surrounding the lake and the birdlife it attracts.

The development of a golf course at Long Bow Point has too much potential to cause a natural disaster that would severely impact the bird species that birders visit Lake Wollumboola to enjoy. Lake Wollumboola consistently attracts members of our club due to the fascinating birds that can be regularly found here as well as the rare birds that repeatedly are reported from this area. Already in July two species of extremely rare birds have been consistently sighted at the lake and several more unusual species have been found by birders who have rushed to visit the area to see the rare ones.

Lake Wollumboola and its catchment areas are extremely precious to birders and attract visitors from all around Australia. When a rare bird is sighted today technology has meant that the sighting does not go unnoticed. In the past several years our members have met many birders from country areas of NSW as well as from interstate – Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia at the lake looking for birds. Lake Wollumboola is a drawcard for birding tourism in the Culburra area. The lake is listed under Australian legislation and international migratory bird agreements as internationally significant habitat for migratory birds. Lake Wollumboola is also recognized 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. It supports over 100 bird species, with at least 23 Threatened species. The lake, sandbar and parts of its catchment are included in Jervis Bay National Park.

In particular Illawarra Birders oppose the development proposal because:

- Placing a golf course in the Lake Wollumboola catchment ignores the advice of many significant experts that emphatically conclude that the Lake Wollumboola catchment, especially Long Bow Point, is unsuitable for urban development. We believe this area must be zoned for "Environment Protection." The natural surface and ground water runoff from Long Bow Point and its surrounds, is critical in maintaining the Lake's water quality, its wetlands, aquatic environment and abundant wildlife. The birds we come to watch are dependent upon this water and the food supply the lake surrounds supply.



- The application does not adequately demonstrate that as a result of the golf course development there would be no impacts such as pollution by fertilizers or pesticides which could irreparably damage the lake's sensitive ecology destroying habitat for wildlife and potentially harming this wildlife or causing it to move away, perhaps permanently, looking for suitable habitat. Pollution impacts can severely harm breeding populations of birds such as the Black Swan, Chestnut Teal, Little Terns and Sooty Oystercatchers.
- We find that it is totally unacceptable that impacts to wildlife have not been adequately assessed. A thorough study would undoubtedly recommend that no development would be recommended for such an ecologically sensitive area.
- Development of the golf course would mean the clearing of at least thirty-two hectares of high conservation value coastal vegetation which horrifies our members. There are sixty-five threatened plant and animal species that have the potential to be severely affected by this development. The ecological survey work that was conducted did not meet sufficient standards to adequately assess the development and its total impacts on these species.
- The application under-estimates the likely implications of this development as there is no mention of a Club House, which would require a further development application. Where would the run-off from such a club house be directed. Kitchen detergents and cleaners can be caustic and would also have the potential to severely impact a sensitive ecological environment if accidentally allowed to spill into the lake.

The Halloran Planning Proposal process offers a greater potential to resolve the future of the lake catchment.

Yours sincerely,
Michelle Rower
Conservation Officer
Illawarra Birders Inc.