

Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc



Professor Mary O' Kane.
Chairperson
Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3 201 Elizabeth St.
Sydney NSW 2000

Email ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Professor O'Kane and Panel members,

31st July 2018

Objections to Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406 and to West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc to reaffirm the recommendations we made at the Culburra Beach Community meeting, that the NSW Independent Planning Commission should refuse both the Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406 and West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846 applications.

We support the detailed assessment and conclusions of the Department of Planning and Environment that the Long Bow Point golf course proposal "is not consistent with the objectives of ecologically sustainable development, is not the public interests and should be refused."

We also support the Department's detailed assessment and conclusions that the West Culburra Concept proposal "is not consistent with the objectives of ecologically sustainable development, is not in the public interest and should be refused."

The many documents and reports provided on behalf of the Halloran Trust since 2010 are inconsistent with the requirements for these applications. In our view, neither the proponent's representative or advocates for these developments, presented any additional evidence or arguments at the Commission's public meeting at Culburra Beach on 24th July 2018 that would justify overturning the Department's conclusions and recommendations.

Nevertheless, we wish to elaborate on several issues we raised previously in response to several of the claims made.

See Attachment 1. Supplementary comments regarding both the Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406 and West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846 applications.

The Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc is a community environment group at Culburra Beach. We have been active since 1993 in initiatives to protect the high natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage values of Lake Wollumboola and the Crookhaven River and their catchments from potential impacts of ecologically unsustainable development. Our vision for Lake Wollumboola and natural parts of its catchment is conservation as part of Jervis Bay National Park (partly achieved) with the lake listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. We also support protection of the lower Crookhaven River and catchment environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage, with ecologically sustainable "limited" expansion of development on disturbed and cleared land in its catchment.

We are a member group of the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

The Lake's varied, unique habitats support at least 106 bird species, including migratory waders, nesting shorebirds, water birds and coastal and seabirds. It is recognised as nationally and internationally significant, as part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway as important habitat for migratory birds under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and international migratory bird agreements with China, Japan and South Korea. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognises the lake as a Key Biodiversity Area (formerly an IBA) under its Global Standard for identification of KBAs. See the beginning of Attachment 2 for details regarding values.

The Crookhaven River Estuary, as part of the Shoalhaven River Estuary is also recognised under the E P & B C Act and international migratory bird agreements.

We assist in protecting the lake through advocacy, submissions and practical conservation, recording lake conditions and birdlife, including as NPWS Shorebird volunteers, Shoalhaven City Council Bushcare volunteers and Birdlife Australia/Shoalhaven volunteers.

Attachment 1 and our website www.wollumboola.org.au provide further details about the conservation values of the Lake Wollumboola and catchment, our volunteer activities including engaging the Culburra Beach and wider community in caring for our environment and cultural heritage, for its intrinsic values as well as the benefit of present and future generations. My curriculum vitae is also included.

We appreciated the opportunity to attend and participate in the public meeting on 24th July. However, we have significant concerns about its conduct, including the uncivil behaviour of many participants and speakers and personal attacks directed at our organisation and members. With respect, these concerns and suggestions for the Commission are included in **Attachment 2**.

Since the Long Bow Point Commission of Inquiry 1996-2000 several of our members have been the targets of harassment and malicious damage. Community members have been prevented from expressing their concerns about the proposed developments and participating as members in the Culburra Beach Progress Association/Shoalhaven City Council Community Consultative Body. See the South Coast Register article of 9th July 2010 attached to email as part of Attachment 2 reporting on a public meeting initially called to discuss the West Culburra development, where in particular, attempts were made to silence community members particularly younger members.

Accordingly, we do not accept claims of 80% community support for the proposed developments.

Association members were also disturbed by comments made by Mr Kerr at the golf course application community meeting. According to the transcript Mr Kerr stated that "we've been told that once the golf course is fully established, it will be handed to the community with a large dowry to help with the running of the golf course: this includes a club house that will be built over time." He went on to say that, "we did discuss.. with the trust that this golf course would be built and would be handed to the community with a large amount of money....". In our view these statements seem to suggest, that financial inducements were offered to community members in relation to support for and future operation of the proposed golf course.

We consider that the Halloran Planning Proposal is potentially a better process to provide zoning for protection of Lake Wollumboola and catchment and natural parts of the Crookhaven River catchment, with "limited" future development in the Crookhaven catchment. Importantly the studies required are conducted independent of the proponent with oversight by the Department.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Bray PSM BA B Ed Dip Ed President LWPA Inc

LWPA Inc supplementary comments regarding both the Long Bow Point Golf Course SSD 8406 and West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846 applications.

Introduction

Recognition of Conservation values of Lake Wollumboola and its catchment.

- inclusion of Lake Wollumboola and part of its catchment in Jervis Bay National Park (JBNP).
- listing as a Wetland of National Importance, mainly for bird life.
- recognised in international migratory bird agreements with China, Japan and South Korea as internationally significant migratory bird habitat as part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway including as an over-wintering site for young birds.
- recognition by Birdlife Australia, Birdlife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature as one of only 300 Australian globally important Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) for all species, but particularly for Black Swan and Chestnut Teal with almost 14,000 Black Swans recorded at one count and 5,000 Chestnut Teal also on one count.
- listing of at least 23 threatened migratory and indigenous bird species, under either NSW or Commonwealth legislation. It supports breeding habitat for the Threatened Little Tern and Pied Oyster Catcher.
- listing of Threatened species and habitat including aquatic and salt marsh plants, marine life, water birds, Green and Golden Bell Frog, endangered wetland vegetation communities and State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP 14) Wetlands.
- Government consideration of the lake as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention with studies confirming it would meet at least 4 categories, when only one is needed for listing. Includes the Lake's unique dynamics and ecology and significance for birds- over 100 species and counting. (Jervis Bay National Park Plan of Management 2011)
- recognized as drought refuge for indigenous water birds with at least 20,000 water birds, shorebirds and waders recorded/estimated on occasions.
- recognition of catchment including Long Bow Point as Threatened species habitat and Wildlife Corridor in South Coast Regional Conservation Plan 2010 (DECCW).

Lake Wollumboola and its catchment are part of the traditional lands of the Jerrinja people and are of high cultural significance.

Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc member activities since 1993 include:

- advocacy for declaration of Lake Wollumboola as part of Jervis Bay National Park achieved 2002 and continuing for the Lake catchment.
- participation in the Long Bow Point Commission of Inquiry, Coastal Lakes Inquiry, South Coast Sensitive Urban Lands Review, Southcoast Regional Strategy, Shoalhaven LEP process and submissions regarding the West Culburra State Significant development, the Golf course now State Significant development and the Halloran Planning Proposal.
- NPWS Lake Wollumboola Shorebird Volunteering.
- Shoalhaven City Council Lake Wollumboola Bushcare Group volunteering-daily October-February.
- Monthly Lake Wollumboola bird surveys for NSW NPWS and Birdlife Australia.
- Key Biodiversity Area Guardianship for Lake Wollumboola, including annual assessment and reporting on condition and threats. Joy Pegler, now Frances Bray.
- Community information and engagement regarding Lake Wollumboola including lake walks, Art exhibition, Flyway Print exhibition presentation at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum 2018

Supplementary comments Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc.

Public interest.

We note that the Department of Planning and Environment's conclusions for both applications was that they were not consistent with the objectives of ecologically sustainable development, not in the public interest and should be refused.

Several speakers including politicians rejected the recommendations to refuse the applications as not being in the "public interest." They considered that the public interest in these matters applied only to permanent residents of Culburra Beach-Orient Point and criticised public petitions that included non-residents.

No recognition was expressed regarding the "Public interest" in protecting public lands and waters including Lake Wollumboola and parts of its catchment, including parts in Jervis Bay National Park and Crown land and the Crown land and waters of the Crookhaven River estuary or the native species that inhabit these areas.

No recognition was given either to the local, Regional, State, National and International Conservation values of Lake Wollumboola in particular but also to the Crookhaven River.

The public interest in these matters would surely apply to all people from local to international concerned for these environments and the communities they support.

Our understanding is that the Public Interest and the principles of Ecologically Sustainable development are major considerations for these applications consistent with the NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act.

With regard to the Public Interest we understand it is not clearly defined and relevant issues may arise in each specific case. The Courts have confirmed that the Public Interest includes consideration of "Ecologically Sustainable Development."

Key features include:

- The requirement to consider the public interest "operates at a very high level of generality and does not of itself require regard to be had to any particular aspect of public interest." *Teys Australia Southern Pty Limited v Burns (2015) NSWLEC1*.
- By requiring a consent authority to have regard to the public interest, s79 c (1) (e) of the Environment Planning & Assessment Act obliges the consent authority to have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development in cases where issues relevant to these principles arise." *Telstra Corporation Limited v Hornsby Shire Council (2006) NSWLEC 133at (123)*.
- "considerations that can form part of the public interest in any specific case include the ecological imperative of conserving natural ecosystems and species." "The phrase-the public interest needs to be construed having regard to the subject matter, scope and purpose of the Act. One of the express objects of the Act is to encourage ecologically sustainable development. Ecologically Sustainable Development is defined in the same manner as it is under s6(2) of the Protection of the Environment Act 1991 (NSW). The phrase-the public interest has been construed by the Land and Environment Court to embrace ecologically sustainable development." *Role of Courts in relation to adaptation to climate change*.

- “The public interest concept is recognised as being multifaceted and flexible. The requirement to consider the public interest operates at a high level of generality and does not of itself require that regard be had to any particular aspect of the public interest in any specific case, include inter alia, the importance of safeguarding property rights, the provision of community services and infrastructure and the ecological imperative of conserving natural ecosystems and species.” Getting the Balance right.” O’Donnell University of Western Sydney.

Cumulative Impact Assessment.

In 2012 the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure the Hon Brad Hazzard, through the Parliamentary Secretary Craig Baumann MP advised us that in relation to our concerns about the entire Culburra Urban Expansion Area that:

“Should the Department receive an Environmental Assessment for the West Culburra proposal, its focus will be to ensure development is consistent with the South Coast Regional Strategy and the impact of any development can be appropriately managed. The Department will also carefully consider the cumulative impact of development within the West Culburra Expansion Area....

“I can advise the Department made a detailed submission to Shoalhaven City Council during the exhibition of the Development application for the golf course. The submission advised Council to consider the cumulative impacts of development across the Lake Wollumboola catchment.”

The scope of cumulative impact assessment within and between these two applications has not been undertaken contrary to the Minister’s advice.

For the golf course application, the proponent has avoided cumulative impact assessment in several ways:

- the golf course club house is the subject of a proposed separate development application.
- impacts from the car park and other facilities as well as people impacts on this relatively undisturbed part of the lake and catchment have not been specifically considered.
- the cleared site on Long Bow Point is now proposed as part of a biodiversity offset. However. changes to the golf course plan have consistently avoided this area, suggesting that other uses were intended and could be revived in the future. These uses include tourist accommodation and residential development.
- Cumulative impact assessment should also involve existing pollutant loads from the Culburra Beach residential area to Lake Wollumboola. Shoalhaven Council water quality testing shows elevated levels of nutrients and solids in the Lake particularly following storm events.

We consider it is essential in relation both to catchment and water body impacts that cumulative assessment to be conducted prior to any approval. Therefore, the failure to consider cumulative assessments for both applications justifies their refusal.

A..Long Bow Point Golf course additional comments.

Lake Wollumboola and catchment’s sensitivity to potential changes to soils and water quality.

The Martens reports do not address the character of existing soils in the Lake Wollumboola catchment, including Long Bow Point or the risks of clearing and soil disturbance to the lake ecology. The soils derived from ancient Wandrawandian Siltstone and mudstone are shallow, low in nutrients, poorly drained and

therefore subject to severe erosion once exposed. The coastal forest vegetation is attuned to these natural low nutrient conditions.

Under the more usual low rainfall conditions, nutrient and sediment runoff to the lake is minimal. Nutrient loads entering the lake under natural conditions are low but have accumulated over thousands of years in the sediments and are intermittently released into the water column as shown by water quality testing on behalf of Shoalhaven City Council and State agencies. The lake's unique ecology is attuned to this natural variable runoff quality.

However, under persistent heavy rainfall conditions, Lake Wollumboola may rise over 2 m with 3 weeks of heavy rain. As a result, sediment and nutrient loads to the wetlands and lake may be substantial.

Clearing of parts of the catchment and major disturbance of the soils particularly when such actions coincide with heavy rainfall, are highly likely to trigger deposition of increased nutrient-enriched sediments in the lake, causing siltation, turbidity and massive algal blooms.

Under natural conditions runoff from Long Bow Point flows directly to the lake as well as via Downs and Wattle Corner Creeks. Direct nutrient enriched flows are likely to continue after golf course construction, despite bunds and other control measures.

Organic loads to the lake from exotic grasses for the golf course would also increase as they require large quantities of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides for their maintenance. Should this biomass be washed into the lake it would cause microalgae blooms which would smother the natural *Ruppia* and *Lamprothamnium*, critical elements in the lake ecology, providing food and shelter to numerous aquatic and bird species.

The NSW Joint Agency Scanes Lake Report 2013 also challenges the credibility of previous claims that there would be a reduction in nutrients to Lake Wollumboola as a result of the golf course, stating that:

“the modelling undertaken to support the Long Bow Point golf course proposal was simplistic, not validated and inadequate to provide confidence that the proposals would actually improve runoff quality. Assertions from the modelling that the development would result in net improvement in water quality and would be better than undisturbed forest are not supported by any evidence from similar treatment systems elsewhere.” Page 5.

Other expert advice we received from Professor Bill Maher and Adjunct Professor Ian Lawrence of University of Canberra and Ms Kerryn Stephens formerly of the Office of Environment and Heritage have also confirmed that water pollution control measures are not capable of reducing pollutants to natural runoff quality levels from catchments such as a Lake Wollumboola.

Lake Wollumboola was closed for nearly 8 years from August 1998 to 29th July 2006. (Please note the statement in my presentation of September 2006 was incorrect). The reference to a 3-5-year closure period at Page 6 in the Hgeo West Culburra Ground water Assessment for the Halloran Planning Proposal June 2017 is incorrect. This document also fails to take illegal openings into account.

During such natural long closures, corresponding with drought, nutrients and other pollutants are not washed into the ocean and remain in the sediments and lake waters. Natural eutrophic conditions occur from time to time. However increased nutrients and sediments from a golf course would increase the frequency of such events, potentially causing permanent collapse of the lake ecosystem.

Residents complained at the public meeting that the existing residential area already contributes to pollution and nutrient enrichment of the lake and used this fact to claim that a golf course at Long Bow Point is justified.

Shoalhaven City Council staff undertake regular water quality testing at accessible sites around the lake. The test results show elevated levels of TN and TP and sediments. (the latest results available on SCC website are from 2011!)

The Joint Agency Report, Scanes et al states that:

“...back dune lagoons (such as Lake Wollumboola) where phosphorus concentrations are low in comparison to nitrogen, are extremely susceptible to eutrophication and excessive algal growth occurs if external nutrient inputs (particularly phosphorus) will increase”

As referred to in our presentation, the big unknown is the extent to which the lake ecology can absorb further nutrient enrichment from a golf course without the natural system collapsing.

In the absence of greater understanding of the Lake Wollumboola ecology and its response to increased pollutants, the application must be refused in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Alternative sites for a golf course have not been assessed.

Alternative sites for a golf course have not been assessed, despite the need for a precautionary approach, as required by the OEH SIS requirement. However, sites outside the Lake Wollumboola catchment and within the Halloran Trust Lands have been identified. These should be assessed as potential golf course sites. One site north of Culburra Rd in the Crookhaven River catchment is on cleared land and seems an appropriate candidate for consideration.

Refusal to assess potential sites is not consistent with avoiding damaging impacts.

Consideration of alternative golf course sites is also a requirement of the Halloran Planning Proposal.

Impacts on lake catchment Threatened Species have not been adequately assessed

The Cumberland Ecology study claims that its surveys follow on from substantial flora and fauna studies undertaken during and since the Long Bow Point Commission of Inquiry 1995-2000. The methodologies of most of these studies have not been accepted as meeting the SIS requirements.

Shoalhaven City Council’s Threatened Species Officer assessed the previous studies as not complying in major ways with the Office of Environment and Heritage’s Director General’s SIS Requirements.

Cumberland Ecology’s targeted surveys and assessments for flora are limited to targeted surveys in 2017, including 2 days for native orchid species in September 2017. However, 2017, particularly September, was notable for an almost total absence of rain at Culburra Beach and throughout the Shoalhaven. Therefore, we disagree that “flora surveys were at time favourable to plant growth,” and consider that assessment of impacts on such limited data cannot be accepted as conclusive.

With regard to native orchid species Mr Alan Stephenson, recognised for his knowledge of native orchids in the Shoalhaven has raised concerns regarding Cumberland Ecology’s assessment of native orchids at Long Bow Point as follows:

- “With regard to *Cryptostyllis hunteriana* searches must be conducted in leaf litter at the base of trees, with a soil fungus test the only true test of its presence.”
- “Another concern is no recording of *Cymbidium suave* as I believe an area with that many trees with hollows should have produced plants.”

- “Other problems are the lack of other common species and no recording of either *Dockrillia teretifolia* or *Dockrillia linguiformis* on any of the large number of *Casuarina Glauca*, which are known to be present around the lake shore.”

(Personal communication, Alan Stephenson, 19th March 2018.)

With regard to fauna, more substantial studies were conducted between September and November 2016 and October and November 2017. However, no Threatened Species were found despite at least 17 such species recognised as utilising the site.

All the Cumberland Ecology fauna studies were conducted during Spring, with the result that species dependent on autumn winter flowering eucalypts and species that breed at different times of the year have not been appropriately assessed.

So, we do not consider that valid conclusions of “no impact on catchment threatened species as a result of a golf course” can be made, based on this data.

B..West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846 Additional comments

Social and economic issues

Both the proponent and some community members consider that Culburra Beach is “dying” and that the West Culburra development will save the town by providing suburban housing for families and apartments and medium density for older residents.

The proposal argues that increased development would reverse the slight decline in permanent residents and thus increase economic and social opportunities. Residential development expansion in other coastal areas of the Shoalhaven such as Sanctuary Point, has not led to greater prosperity, improved employment opportunities or social services. Unfortunately, all areas of the Shoalhaven experience high youth unemployment and dependence on social welfare.

The emphasis on urban development as the panacea for the social and economic problems of Culburra Beach/Orient deflects attention from adverse impacts from the proposed West Culburra development on other industries and from diversifying the local economy through other means.

Likely adverse impacts on the oyster and fishing industries as well as the tourist industry are ignored by many supporters of development expansion.

Since the West Culburra application was lodged in 2010, a more diverse economy is developing.

The annual Burradise Festival goes from strength to strength with its focus on our unique coastal village character, Aboriginal cultural heritage, surfing culture, lively arts and music scene and even our unspoiled environment with Lake Wollumboola Protection Association members organizing “Lake Wollumboola Wild” walks.

Major surfing events including the recent National Junior Surfing title also attract participants and visitors from all over NSW and further afield.

It is concerning that many permanent residents deride the contribution that part-time residents make to our economy and society. Yet part-time residents provide significant income for Culburra Beach’s building industry, contributing to the rejuvenation of the eastern end of the Culburra Beach shopping strip with patronage of new restaurants, cafes and the community garden.

A more diverse economy is also reflected in increased health related services, including Physiotherapy and Podiatry.

Tourists and families on holidays particularly during school holidays also provide significant diversity to the local economy.

It seems many pro-development expansion supporters do not visit Lake Wollumboola and so are not aware of tourism associated with birdlife at Lake Wollumboola and the income nature tourism brings to our community. Both individual and groups of bird observers are regular visitors at all seasons, providing business for cafes, restaurants and accommodation venues. We have also boosted visitor numbers due to events such as the Lake Wollumboola art exhibition at the Surf Club in 2014 and our presentation at the 2018 "Flyway Print Exchange" exhibition at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum.

Major prawning and crabbing events have also occurred at Lake Wollumboola over the past three long summers with large numbers of people from Sydney and elsewhere coming to visit. Local fishermen have also experienced good seasons-all benefitting the local economy although impacting sensitive parts of the lake.

Culburra Beach is a dormitory suburb for Nowra being only 20 minutes by car. This proximity means that Culburra's potential as a sub-regional district centre will always be limited, as Nowra provides major infrastructure and services more economically and a range of employment opportunities including technical, professional and service occupations.

In our view, our community's strongest assets are our beautiful and varied environment and diverse, creative people.

It is a pity that many Culburra residents do not appreciate this growing contribution to our local economy surrounded as we are by coastal forest, the unique, beautiful, internationally significant Lake Wollumboola and Crookhaven River Estuary, two surf beaches and the ocean.

A well-planned focus on Eco-tourism and Aboriginal cultural heritage tourism and ecologically sustainable recreation activities would provide important stimulus to our social and economic wellbeing. A former resident and General Manager of the Australian Tourism Commission, Mr John Rowe advised Culburra Beach is "sitting on a gold mine" regarding ecotourism, particularly associated with bird observers and visitors interested in Aboriginal cultural heritage tourism.

This is why great care is needed in ensuring any development expansion in Culburra Beach-Orient Point is ecologically sustainable and sensitive to our environment.

Attachment 3.**Concerns regarding the conduct of the Independent Planning Commission public meetings.**

The conduct of some people attending the Independent Planning Commission Public meeting on 24th July was in our view a travesty of respectful expression of opinion. The meetings were not representative of our community as claimed.

We are concerned that:

- many people including those with young families, working people and students, did not have an opportunity to attend because the meetings were held during working hours.
- the Culburra Beach Bowling Club was not an appropriate venue for Independent Planning Commission public meetings. It is a private venue with its own rules and regulations, which appeared to over-rule those of the Commission. It was not a neutral location, as its President and Manager made presentations supporting the West Culburra application and were able to rally members to attend.
- People at the afternoon session of the IPC meeting, were consuming alcohol, including within plain site of Commission members and presenters.
- the ground rules for the meeting stated that "You (that is the speakers) are to refrain from making offensive, threatening and defamatory statements." However, these rules were broken on several occasions, with several speakers appearing intent on inciting the audience to disrupt the proceeding and to attack other speakers.
- Early management intervention to deter such behaviour may have assisted in preventing such behaviour.
- The public meeting ground rules did not cover declarations of conflict of interest, yet several presenters seemed to have such conflicts because of stated personal and "professional" relationships with the sponsors of the application eg Real Estate Agents and others.

Attachment 4. Curriculum vitae

Frances Bray

Educational Qualifications

Matriculation. Canterbury Girls' High School, Melbourne, Victoria	1958
Bachelor of Arts, University of Melbourne Majors in Geography, History and English	1961
Diploma of Education, University of Melbourne	1962
Bachelor of Education (Post Graduate) Monash University Psycholinguistics and Disorders of Communication, Perceptual bases of reading and learning difficulties.	1976

Employment history.

Victorian Education Department Teaching Geography, History and English at Norlane High School and Dandenong Girls' High School.	1963 to 1965
Overseas experience Teaching environmental education in Scottish Camp schools with various Authorities. John Kelly Girls' School, Neasden London UK.	1966 to 1968
Commonwealth Department of Education and Science/ Youth Affairs Melbourne and Canberra, responsible for Aboriginal Student Assistance Schemes, for Aboriginal Education Policy, Executive Officer to the National Aboriginal Education Committee. Youth Policy, Traineeships.	1968 to 1985
Commonwealth Executive Development Scheme. Placements at Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office, Department of Finance and Department of Primary Industry.	1985 to 1986.
Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Program Budgeting.	1986
National Occupational Health and Safety Commission Branch Head, Standards, responsible for National OHS Standards Program, Branch Head National Co-ordination. Various managerial positions responsible for national OHS training strategy and particular standards.	1986 to 1997
Awarded the Public Service Medal for contribution to safe working Standards through the National Certification Standard for Users and Operators of Industrial Equipment.	1996

Voluntary work since retirement from paid workforce in 1997

Volunteer Environmental advocate Full time since 1997.	1993 to present.
President of Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc (formerly known as the unincorporated Lake Wollumboola Support Group)	1993 to present
Jervis Bay Regional Alliance Inc former Vice-president, now member.	1997 to present
Birdlife Australia and Birdlife Shoalhaven Branch, member. Monthly bird surveys.	15 years
NSW NPWS Shorebird Volunteer, Co-ordinates Lake Wollumboola Volunteer Group.	2002 to present
Shoalhaven City Council Co-ordinator Lake Wollumboola Bushcare Group.	Member since 1999.

Membership of Environment Committees.

Shoalhaven City Council Lake Wollumboola Estuary Management Task Force	1996 to 2000
Shoalhaven City Council Bushcare Representative Group	Six years.
NPWS Lake Wollumboola Reference Group	2003-2005
NPWS South Coast Region Advisory Committee	2004 to present.
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority Community Reference Group	2008-12

Awards.

- ACF national award, the Peter Rawlinson Award 2000 for conservation to Frances Bray and Keith Campbell for protecting Lake Wollumboola from urban development expansion.
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW awarded the Dunphy Award 2007 to Frances Bray for outstanding commitment and success in the conservation of the NSW Environment.
- NSW Coastal Management Award "Ruth Readford" Award for Lifetime Achievement 2014
- Nature Conservation Council of NSW Alan Strom Hall of Fame Award for longstanding commitment to the conservation movement.
- Also received a Shoalhaven Healthy Cities Award, a Meroogal International Women's Day Award 1998, and a Green Heart Award 2002 for contribution to the protection of Lake Wollumboola.

SCR 9.7.10.

Residents booed as they question plan for big subdivision

By AMY FINDLAY

A LARGE crowd from Culburra Beach turned out to discuss the proposed west Culburra development at the Progress Association meeting on Wednesday night.

At the start of proceedings, association president Jack Kerr claimed the meeting was "not a public meeting" and informed those present that the development proposal would not be discussed.

Those attending made several attempts to raise the issue but were overruled by Mr Kerr.

Resident Chris Profke eventually convinced Mr Kerr to open the issue for discussion but was disappointed with how the meeting was conducted.

"We were told by members in a very abrupt way that we would not be discussing the development," he said.

"They made us feel like we weren't welcome because they didn't want anyone to oppose their support for it.

"We were booed down and made to feel like our opinions were wrong and invalid."

Mr Profke said those who voiced their opposition did well considering the issue was originally not up for discussion.

Mr Kerr dismissed as a "rent-a-crowd" residents who attended the meeting but said he was happy with

the way the meeting was conducted in difficult circumstances.

"It was a very difficult meeting and very noisy compared to our normal progress meeting because of the rent-a-crowd," he said.

"Everyone was allowed to freely discuss their opinions and people have congratulated me about the way I conducted it."

A clearly divided room was united by the words of Culburra Beach business operator Catherine Shields, who suggested the community had been misrepresented.

"I'm concerned that the Shoalhaven has been given the wrong impression, that we will just lay down and let anything happen to our town," she said.

"I want to ensure the view of all stakeholders is taken into consideration.

"I don't want to see another Shellharbour here, let's make sure it's not just something these greedy developers just make money out of."

A motion to hold a public forum on the development was voted down by members.

The Culburra Beach Progress Association AGM will be held on July 19 and those wishing to vote on the new committee must be members.

Those wishing to become members can download a membership form at www.culburrabeach.org.au.



ORDER: Association president Jack Kerr chairs Wednesday night's heated Culburra Beach Progress Association meeting, which he claimed was not open to the public.



INTEREST: The crowd that turned up determined to discuss the proposed west Culburra development.