

Mr. Aaron Brown

Dear Mr. Brown

Firstly, I must apologise for missing the session at Culburra but at the last minute I was unable, as my vehicle was still in the workshop with a broken clutch and no other transport was available.

If it is possible I would like you to accept the following as my submission to the proposed developments but my comments refer mainly to the Long Bow Point area.

As a dedicated conservationist, primarily concerned with native orchids, over a period of 35 years I have walked extensively over much of the Shoalhaven area which resulted in the writing of a book called Orchid Species of the Shoalhaven. This book depicts the 142 species known to occur in this region, 14 of which are listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act or the NSW TSC Act. One species, which at the time of publishing was listed as a species aff. but was later formally described and named. One other was recently discovered and although common to other areas of NSW, is known from one colony only.

My first concern is of course the orchid population within whatever boundaries will be defined for the golf course. As this area is private property although few signs denote this I am aware of the anti-environment nature of the land owner and as is my usual practice do not trespass on such areas. However, due to my access to adjacent land. Including the Jervis Bay National Park, I have more than a little knowledge of the area and as such have attached a list of orchids I know exist and others I expect to exist within the proposed development area.

I am unaware of any recent environmental assessment for the Long Bow Point site but I am aware of a previous assessment which was in part undertaken in a vehicle. This EA was specific to the EPBC listed *Cryptostylis hunteriana* and I know it is not possible to see this species from the window of a car. It may be possible to recognise possible habitat but as the species is totally reliant on a fungus for its survival it is necessary to take soil samples to determine this fungus and therefore any survey which states the orchid is not in situ must be seen as false if certain circumstances do not exist, in the time period before an EA is conducted. Only an EA on foot, walking parallel 5 metre transects is satisfactory, as this is the only terrestrial in this and all other areas which never produces a leaf to determine species identity. It is also dependent on good annual rainfall in the four to five weeks prior to its normal flowering period of early December and who is to know the weather conditions on the day of the EA or for the weeks prior.

I am also aware there has been no survey of the current population or those who may be interested in moving to the area as to how many actually play golf or would be interested in beginning. My information also indicates the Nowra Golf Club which for several decades has been a most active golf club but currently has no junior members to replace aging members and this I expect is why the finances of the club have fallen to the extent it has been taken under the control of the Bomaderry Bowling Club, which also controls a club in Berry and the Bomaderry RSL Club.

With this in mind I ask who will manage this new club, pay for a professional to teach interested persons the art of golf? Who also will pay for the maintenance of the course and who also will be responsible for the club if perchance it fails and goes into liquidation? Public comments and media reporting state the average age of local resident is 55 years plus and I am aware there has been no survey to indicate how many of these persons currently play golf or what interest there may be with those persons who are currently interested in availing themselves of the game of golf should they be considering a move to Culburra Beach.

I fail to understand how this development could be considered with so little information presented when so much is at stake.

Alan W Stephenson F.A.O.C.