

Matthew Hill,

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25/07/18

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Matthew Hill, I am 27 years old, and I have lived in Culburra Beach since birth.

I am writing in regards to the recent meeting yesterday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018, about the West Culburra Development, and the Long Bow Point Golf Course. I was present at the meeting, but I am greatly disappointed and annoyed that many people (especially young people) were not able to attend because of the time of day the meeting was held, and had to be at work. I believe many more young people would have turned up had the meeting been held outside working hours.

As a resident of the town, I would like to express my full support for the Golf Course and the West Culburra Development. I strongly believe, based on evidence brought up at the meeting by various speakers, and my own opinion, that these developments should go ahead. I see around me a town that is slowly fading away, if nothing is done. House prices are very high, and speaking for myself and many other locals of my age group, it is extremely difficult to buy a house and afford to live in this beautiful place. This is a village I have called home for 27 years, and would like to continue to do so (as well as many of my acquaintances). Such a dream is slowly becoming less of a possibility, unless something is done soon.

I believe communities are built by families. These families (and their children, grandchildren etc.) will soon be forced to settle elsewhere, leaving Culburra to be occupied by empty holiday houses (monopolised by rich Sydneysiders), dying businesses, and minimal infrastructure. In short, it will become a ghost town.

This has not always been the case in Culburra. It is a more recent happening. I remember the days about a decade ago when many more families lived in the area as permanent residents, and the town was more alive. Culburra has never had much attention regarding needed infrastructure, however, which has prevented the town from reaching its potential. Whenever something (such as a golf course) has been recommended for the town, it has been speedily and viscously shut down by the local greens minority group, called the "Lake Wollumboola Protection Association". This association DOES NOT speak for me or the majority of this town. Members of this same greens group, I remember, went so far as to sand-bag Lake Wollumboola shut to the ocean, and, ironically, 'interfere' with the natural ecosystem. The Lake, which prior to this had been opening naturally on a regular basis,

remained closed for many years and prevented the lake from having a natural clean out. One of the leaders of this same 'association' has recently, following the meeting, had the audacity to claim on a radio interview that 80% of the town shares their view on the pending developments. This is false information, and can evidently be seen in the numbers who expressed their support for the projects at the recent meeting held on the 24/07/2018.

If this association continues to get their way, nothing will be allowed to progress in this town, as it hasn't been for decades largely because of their input.

I love the environment, as do the majority of the townspeople, and we want to protect Culburra's natural beauty. Research highlights, however, that there are no significant vegetation communities affected in these developments. Also, the vegetation present is not only widespread & of low significance in NSW, but have far better representative examples elsewhere. On top of this, vegetation communities in the surrounding area of the development hugely exceed the minimal amount required to support the faunal species characteristic of such communities. There are also no faunal crossing points at these junctures.

I love my town community. This will fade away if nothing is done soon. I believe that there are very possible ways to have these developments with minimal impact on the environment. Besides this, impact is already happening now anyway, with runoff into the Lake and river from our existing town (which is situated right on the Lake and river!) The native animals and plants are still thriving. It is quite apparent that these new developments will not change anything in this regard.

I implore you to approve the West Culburra Development, and the Long Bow Point Golf Course to ensure the future survival of our town community, and the well-being of its families and children.

Thank you for your time in reading.

Matthew Hill