

**PRESENTATION BY ROBERT DUNN, BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA LIMITED BOARD MEMBER &
PRESIDENT, BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN**

**TO INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF PAUL SULLIVAN, BIRDLIFE
AUSTRALIA LIMITED, CEO**

24 JULY 2018

OBJECTION TO THE LONG BOW POINT GOLF COURSE APPLICATION (SSD 8406)

WHO WE ARE

I am a Board Member of Birdlife Australia and President of Birdlife Shoalhaven.
I am making this presentation on behalf of Paul Sullivan, CEO of Birdlife Australia Limited.

Birdlife Australia is Australia's largest bird conservation organisation with over 110,000 members and supporters. For over a century our members have protected birds and their habitats, through practical conservation and advocacy based on the best available science.

OUR POSITION

BirdLife Australia strongly objects to the proposed Long Bow Point Golf Course.

This position is underpinned by research and bird observations by experienced ornithologists and birdwatchers since 1993.

Our objection derives from well-founded concerns regarding the proposals potential damaging impacts on Lake Wollumboola's ecosystems and its internationally significant and threatened bird species.

I would stress that this is much more than just a local issue. The global recognition of Lake Wollumboola's importance is fundamental to any discussion of the Golf Course development.

A KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA AT THREAT

Lake Wollumboola has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area or KBA under criteria set by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature - the IUCN.

The IUCN is composed of both government and non-government organisations. It is the world's largest environmental network with 1,300 Member organisations and draws on input of some 10,000 experts. It is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

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It is this organisation that set the Global Standard for Identification of KBAs. The Standard employs agreed scientific criteria to identify sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.

BirdLife Australia applied the Standard to assess sites across Australia for recognition as Key Biodiversity Areas. Just over 300 met the Standard. Lake Wollumboola is one of these. It is one of only 300 KBAs in Australia determined by an international standard.

It was identified in 2009 for its critical habitat and reliable feeding grounds for Black Swan and Chestnut Teal. Up to almost 14,000 Black Swan have been recorded, which is near 3% of the species' world population and much of their NSW South Coast population. The Chestnut Teal population is at times 4-5,000 birds, which is over 4% of the species' global population.

A MIGRATORY BIRD FLYWAY COMPROMISED

As well as a Key Biodiversity Area, Lake Wollumboola is also recognised as part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway. The Flyway is vital for the survival of internationally significant migratory birds. It provides habitat for species protected under Federal legislation and in international migratory bird agreements with China, Japan and South Korea.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

Furthermore, the Lake which is part of Jervis Bay National Park, is of regional importance for a large number of bird species. It supports at least 106 bird species including nesting shorebirds, Federally listed migratory shorebirds, coastal and sea birds, water birds and raptors, with at least 20,000 counted on occasions. At least 23 of those bird species are listed as threatened under either NSW or Australian Government legislation.

LIKELY OUTCOMES FROM THIS PROPOSAL

The proposal fails to demonstrate that management measures would prevent adverse impacts on the Lake's sensitive ecology on which its birds depend for their survival.

This means that the proposal could put at danger one of Australia's 300 internationally recognised Key Biodiversity Areas, habitat crucial to the East Asian Australasian Flyway and a number of threatened species.

Accordingly, without evidence to the contrary, a precautionary approach should apply and the proposal must be rejected.

To do otherwise could have major impacts on birdlife locally, regionally and far beyond its shores.