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BirdLife Shoalhaven is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited ABN 75 149 124 774

To:  
Hon. Shelley Hancock MP  
Member for South Coast  
1/57 Plunkett Street  
NOWRA NSW 2541

From:  
Birdlife Shoalhaven  
P.O. Box 295  
Vincentia NSW 2540

Dear Shelley

BirdLife Shoalhaven [BLS] is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited, an independent, not-for-profit organisation committed to the conservation of our birds with over 100,000 supporters

It has come to our attention that an 11.16 ha parcel of land [Lot 1 DP 866983] at the corner of The Wool Road and Naval College Road Vincentia, which is state government owned is being advertised for sale at an on-line auction on May 23 2017.

**BLS is shocked by this sale action, propose to you that is quite inappropriate and suggest it must be withdrawn from sale with a view to incorporating the land in the adjacent Jervis Bay National Park [JBNP]. BLS requests that this be brought to the urgent attention of the relevant Ministers of both Environment and Planning and the Premier.**

BLS is especially concerned because this parcel of land is actually part of the **Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area [KBA]**, which is one of only two exclusively in the Shoalhaven. Two other KBAs are shared by the Shoalhaven with neighbouring areas. It is thus part of an international system for recognizing biodiversity "hot spots" associated with 11 global conservation organizations and 120 NGO bird conservation organizations.

The site has a known presence of the **Commonwealth [EPBC Act 1999] Threatened Species *Dasyornis brachypterus* [Eastern Bristlebird]**, which has been the 'trigger species' to the identification of the Key Biodiversity Area. This bird is one of only eight species listed for 'Priority Conservation' in the Australian Threatened Species Strategy of 2015. Jervis Bay has 700 of the NSW population of 2000 and 10% of these are documented in the immediate area. Recent OEH surveys have located the species in this specific portion of land and the species is well-known in the surrounding, adjacent area, which is overwhelmingly present or future National Park including the Heritage Estate. These areas have been subject to comprehensive ecological assessments that indicate habitat for a wide variety of both Commonwealth and NSW threatened species flora and fauna such as the Glossy Black-cockatoo, Square-tailed Kite and Eastern ground Parrot.

The *Cryptostyli hunteriana* [Leafless Tongue Orchid], also a Commonwealth listed threatened Species under the EPBC Act 1999 has been identified on this portion by formal survey.

This portion of land is actually part of an environmental corridor critical not only to the biodiversity of the JBNP but especially to the biodiversity future of the Booderee National Park. The subject land is strategically located within an important wildlife corridor already identified as critical for supporting wildlife and facilitating seasonal east-west movement of dozens of bird species between the coastal plain and great eastern ranges as well as north-south dispersal of birds along the coast.

The parcel has Environment Conservation E2 and Special Purpose Infrastructure SP2 Zoning. This alone indicates a very limited planning outlook for this site that would preclude any development.

BLS considers that these factors point to a future for this parcel based on a sensible and logical inclusion in the Jervis Bay National Park, which is not only a perfect environmental fit but totally in keeping with the developments in the acquisition of neighbouring land to comprise the JBNP, in which your government has been involved.

BLS trusts that this matter will meet with your most urgent attention.



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