

June 11 2016

From: Chris Grounds
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To:
The Mayor
Clr. Amanda Findley
Shoalhaven City Council

A coalition of Shoalhaven conservation organizations and branches being Heritage Estate Network, Jervis Bay Regional Alliance, National Parks Association, Birdlife Shoalhaven and Australian Conservation Foundation provided formal submissions on May 1 2019 and May 9 2019 concerning a council resolution of March 2019 to investigate two alternate sites for an 'overflow tourist car park for Hyams Beach'.

We are now seeking your direct support to bring a reconsideration of the Clause 3 i, quoted in those submissions, to council agenda so that the multitude of serious concerns can be addressed and the clause repealed.

As you are aware one site is in the Jervis Bay National Park, though the specific site has never been identified. The other site is the prior contaminated 'old tip' site on Jerringa LALC property. Our submissions set out clearly the constraints and objections that apply to each of the sites, both of which are Zoned as Environment Conservation 1 in the Shoalhaven Local Environment Plan.

Since those submissions were provided to you, all councillors and the Acting General Manager there have been a number of significant developments.

The submissions were provided for information and consultation to the **Jerrinja LALC** C.E.O. and were discussed at length. In terms of the old-tip site it was apparent there had been insufficient information provided to the JLALC about the site and the C.E.O., Alfred Wellington, stated categorically that their priority was conservation.

A letter was sent to the **Minister, Hon Matt Keane** on behalf of the organizations involved, concerning the JBNP accompanied by the coalition's submission on the JBNP site. A Ministerial response has been received and this indicated very clearly that the NPWS were never consulted about the idea of using the JBNP for a car park and there were never any discussions or advice sought. This was verified in conversation with NPWS at a local level. The proposal is not supported in the JBNP Plan of Management.

Council Tourism staff (Lorraine Hayward Tourism Project Officer) responded on June 3 2019 to the submissions. It indicated that Council resolved "at the request of several community members, to investigate options for out of area parking". As stated, it does not appear to represent the HBVA and it is now known that a clear majority of community members do not agree and have never agreed to the proposal put to Council.

Copies of both submissions were provided to the **Hyams Beach Villagers Association (HBVA)** as a courtesy. I was subsequently invited to their **meeting of Saturday June 8 2019** to speak in support of those submissions. It was more than clear at that meeting that members either had "serious reservations about the environmental threats posed" but, by a clear majority, objected to "any form of out-of-village car parking within the JBNP and land granted to the Jerrinja LALC such as the old tip site". Clearly, this does not support the Tourism staff contention.

We trust that you would now recognize that this matter needs to be reconsidered. The alternate sites proposal has been a poorly researched, inadequately considered and is highly flawed and inappropriate concept.

I can but draw a comparison to the 'Cudmirrah Beach' episode when councillors were given a chance to reconsider, with good advice, a prior decision and you are aware of that result.

Yours

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For Nominated Organizations