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August 18 2020

To: Hon Sussan Ley Minister for Environment

Dear Minister / Sussan

BirdLife Shoalhaven [BLS] is a branch of BirdLife Australia [BLA], Australia's largest bird conservation organisation. For over a century its members have protected birds and their habitats through practical conservation and advocacy based on the best available science. BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) is a branch of BLA with 700 members and supporters.

BLS has been actively involved over many months in support of the Manyana Matters community campaign in the Shoalhaven. BLS has been at the forefront of research and field work related to threatened species and bird biodiversity of the site and its surrounds. For BLS this is connected in conservation to the Protection of Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity espoused in the EPBC Act 1999, two principles BLS trusts will not be compromised in the Review process of the Act.

BLS is now aware of your decision regarding the proposed development by Ozy Homes at the Manyana site as a "Controlled Action". BLS congratulates you on that decision which at least addresses one of the major planning flaws involved with the development, i.e. dated environmental assessment. This will allow, we trust, an assessment in the correct ecological context of the 2019-2020 bushfires.

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Chris Grounds

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Birdlife Shoalhaven acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the Shoalhaven, their care of country, birds and habitat and pays respects to all Elders.