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

George Curtis
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Submitted via online form

16 June 2022

Dear Mr Curtis,

RE: Submission to Planning Proposal - Callala Bay and Kinghorne Point Halloran Trust Lands Rezoning

BirdLife Australia (BLA) is Australia's largest bird conservation organisation with over 200,000 members and supporters. 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, which itself has 1,000 members and supporters. Our charter is to help our members and the wider community enjoy and learn more about birds and to advocate for the conservation of birdlife across the Shoalhaven.

This submission acknowledges that the Planning Proposal involves the country of the Jerringa people.

BLS has considered the matters arising from PP-2021-406 in relation to bird species and their conservation.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. **BLS opposes the Planning Proposal** to rezone certain bushland to permit residential development on the basis that the Planning Proposal significantly impacts threatened bird and other species' habitat, already under significant pressure from recent bushfires and urban expansion.
- 1.2. **BLS recommends** the following procedural steps be taken by the Department of Planning and Environment:
 - 1.2.1. That a 'maintain or improve' biodiversity outcome is adopted in relation to threatened species and identifying suitable habitat on the proposed biobank site
 - 1.2.2. That the Biodiversity Conservation Assessment Report be both updated and independently verified in the context of the impact of the Currowan bushfire as well as evidence of recent sightings of endangered species on the site, and
 - 1.2.3. That conditions of consent prescribe requirements during the construction phase to minimise harm to biodiversity values within the biodiversity certification, such as:
 - staged clearing
 - timing clearing outside breeding seasons

- retention of hollow bearing trees within the public land and installation of nesting boxes across surrounding bushland, and
- best practice methodology for felling trees to protect wildlife.

2. HOW THE PLANNING PROPOSAL WILL IMPACT BIRD SPECIES

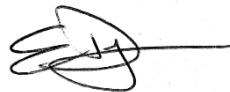
- 2.1. The 2019 Black Summer Bushfires were devastating for bird species across the south coast of NSW, removing swaths of key habitat and pushing birds to move to remaining unburnt land. In the Shoalhaven, bird species were pushed into Jervis Bay and Booderee national parks as well as remaining habitat on the urban fringe. The subject land was not impacted by the Currowan bushfires and for that reason has become more important to the survival of local bird and other species.
- 2.2. BLS is concerned that the environmental assessment is based on bird survey data that predates the Currowan bushfire and therefore does not reflect the change in habitat value or occurrence of species on the site.
- 2.3. The site contains more than 40 hectares of tall coastal forest with numerous hollow bearing trees. BLA Birddata as well as recent bird surveys undertaken by community members identify the following birds as occurring on the subject site:
 - Powerful Owl – ‘vulnerable’ under state legislation
 - Glossy Black Cockatoo – ‘vulnerable’ under state legislation and ‘endangered’ under federal legislation
 - Gang-gang Cockatoo – ‘vulnerable’ under state legislation and ‘endangered’ under federal legislation.

We are happy to be contacted to discuss the submission. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours sincerely



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