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Mr. Russ Pigg  
General Manager  
Shoalhaven City Council  
36 Bridge Rd,  
Nowra NSW 2541

4 August 2016

Dear Mr. Pigg

## SHOALHAVEN COASTLINE ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BirdLife Shoalhaven [BLS] wishes to make a submission on the Shoalhaven Coastline Zone Management Plan (CZMP) to ensure that key issues vital to the conservation of birds are adequately considered. BLS advocates for the conservation of birds and their habitats and promotes the appreciation and understanding of birds across the Shoalhaven and beyond. BLS is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited, an independent, not-for-profit organization, which was established in 1901 and currently has over 12,000 members and 70,000 supporters.

### KEY ISSUES

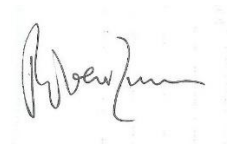
Given the limited time provided for submissions, BLS would just highlight four main points:

1. The **representation of birdlife on the Shoalhaven coast is inadequate in a number of ways:**
  - Any eco-profile of the Shoalhaven coast needs to recognize the relevance and importance of birds and their habitats in the environmental complex. This is essential to any proposed management regime for the coast but is lacking in the CZMP.
  - Migratory and domiciled shorebirds, and the threatened species within these categories that are found in the Shoalhaven, are of national significance and in some instances, international significance. e.g. under Commonwealth legislation the Hooded Plover [Vulnerable] and Eastern Curlew [Critically Endangered].

- The Shoalhaven Coast includes three internationally established Important Bird and Biodiversity areas [IBAs] which embrace key coastal areas, namely Jervis Bay, Lake Wollumboola and Ulladulla to Merimbula. This is not recognized by the CZMP.
  - There are numerous habitats outside these IBAs that are highly important in coastal biodiversity and birdlife, e.g. Shoalhaven Heads, Myola Sand Spit, Lake Conjola.
  - While the CZMP does acknowledge that: *Council will continue to work with conservation partners to protect nesting sites for migratory shore birds such as the Little Tern*, there are other species and conservation priorities that should be recognized.
2. The bird-watching community is a key stakeholder in the management of the coastline zone and as such **Birdlife Shoalhaven needs to be recognized in the community engagement program, which it has not been to this point in time.**
  3. **Birdwatching should be included under diverse recreational uses within the CZMP.** BLS and a number of associated bird watching groups in the Shoalhaven are very active in regular bird watching across the region. Bird watching also attracts similar groups from outside the region, some of whom are regular visitors to Shoalhaven for 'birding'. Many BLS members are involved as community volunteers in the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program associated with the NPWS.
  4. Biodiversity is, quite rightly, a cornerstone concept of the CZMP, which commits to '*biodiversity protection*' and '*protection of the natural environment and coastal biodiversity*'. **In this context, the CZMP lacks development of the concept of 'habitat' vital for bird conservation.**

If you have any queries on this submission, please contact Chris Grounds, BirdLife Shoalhaven Conservation Officer, at [solum306@gmail.com](mailto:solum306@gmail.com) or on 0401 137158.

Yours sincerely,



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