

January 27 2015

To:

Kellie Lowe  
Environmental Services Officer  
Shoalhaven City Council

From:

Chris Grounds - Conservation Officer for  
BirdLife Shoalhaven  
117 Loralyn Avenue  
St Georges Basin NSW 2540  
[shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au](mailto:shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au)

Dear Kellie

BirdLife Shoalhaven wishes to raise a concern with you and would appreciate if this could be shared with Angela Jenkins, Threatened Species Officer and the Rangers Office.

Some of our Bay and Basin area members have observed and visited the Myola Sand Spit over many years now. This is the area immediately opposite the Huskisson wharves at Currambene Creek.

It is a dedicated and signposted by Council as a "Prohibited" zone for dogs, on or off-leash.

Our members have observed and verified that this is an important sand resting area for a variety of bird species, some of which are 'Threatened Species Shorebirds' e.g. Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers and others migratory visitors, e.g. Eastern Curlew from Northeast Asia. Other species common at the site include Little Pied, Little Black and Black Cormorants, Silver Gulls, Crested Terns, Masked Lapwings and Pelicans. The site presents as possibly the most important sand resting area in Jervis Bay.

The site is also right on the verge of the Jervis Bay "Important Bird Area".

It has been our observation that there is a level of intrusion and disturbance which threatens the integrity of the site for these birds, which have proven to be adaptable in a busy marine area. This arises from a number of sources. The main problem is the use of the area with unleashed dogs by owners who appear to totally ignore street and beach signage. Dogs are also brought to the site and set free by paddle-boarders from the Creek or Huskisson access. Of course it is not a people free site but more recent commercial usage for a Huskisson Ferry landing can cause disturbance as well.

It may be possible to better display the Council signage at the entry to the tracks and on the spit itself with supporting signage indicating the importance as a bird resting area. The sign at the spit itself faces to Huskisson so will not be seen until people do the return walk.

/2

The rock wall at the Huskisson wharf side could also accommodate educational bird signage of the type Council uses in other key visitor places. So much key visitor traffic to Jervis Bay uses that area which has an excellent view of the spit and birds so it could contribute to the attraction of the overall Currambene Creek site.

It might also prove useful to liaise with the Callala Beach Progress Association to share the concern, raise awareness and to seek their co-operation.

The Myola Sand Spit is a unique site within Jervis Bay, hosting some unique and attractive bird species and offering a special bird experience. BirdLife Shoalhaven hopes that some further proactive intervention will support these birds at this site.

Please be assured of our co-operation in this endeavour.

Yours

*Chris Grounds*

Chris Grounds  
Conservation Officer  
BirdLife Shoalhaven

**EMAIL RESPONSE MARCH 31 2015 9.15AM**

(email arrived morning after conversation with Kelie Lowe at Huski Dredging Meeting informing her that there had been no response since Jan 27 to BLS letter re Myola.

Hi Chris,

Apologies that you have not had a response from Council, your letters were forwarded to our Rangers. I know Rangers have taken into consideration your concerns when undertaking their surveillance of the area. Rangers have also sought additional resources from council to be able to provide an improved service to respond to roaming and off-leash dogs which has been identified as a large problem across the City.

I will follow-up for you.

Regards,  
Kelie Lowe

Mr Chris Grounds

Thank you for contacting Shoalhaven City Council regarding dogs at Myola Spit. Our Council Animal Management Rangers are well aware of these issues and have been tasked to patrol on a random basis, to enforce necessary legislation when appropriate. These visits will be ongoing which will hopefully address your concerns.

*Michael Jarman*  
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**From:** [Wayne Clark](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 7:33 AM  
**To:** <mailto:mytcg@optusnet.com.au>  
**Subject:** Myola Spit

Chris

Thank you for your email highlighting dogs and pedestrian traffic on Myola Spit and the disruption of the bird life nesting areas on the spit.

You are correct in the area is a dog prohibited and recognised as a significant sight for birds both a resting and nesting area.

As a result of your correspondence I have had Rangers attend the location and conduct a comprehensive audit of enforcement/information signage in the area. As a result of the audit Council Rangers have placed a request for a number of signs to be installed in areas of high pedestrian traffic onto the Myola Spit to highlight the

environmental significance of the area and aid with control and enforcement under the Companion Animals Act i.e. Dogs in the prohibited area/Dogs off leash on public beaches not categorised as such.

Once the signage for the area is satisfactory Rangers will then commence a proactive enforcement of the area which may result in prosecutions of persons who breach the legislation.

This email is forwarded for your information.

**Wayne Clark**  
**Ranger Team Supervisor**  
Shoalhaven City Council

Thank you Wayne for this response and the information.

We feel the signage will help. It is a very important natural area and people will need some educating to realize that. Whatever work your team can do will be acknowledged and appreciated.

The site has had consideration as a potential nesting site but it is certainly a significant resting-roosting site and the most important such sand site in Jervis Bay.

We also appreciate people and their dogs are a never-ending challenge for your team. If BirdLife Shoalhaven can be of any assistance please feel free to contact us.

yours

Chris Grounds

Conservation Officer - BirdLife Shoalhaven