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

To:
Minister for Environment, Local Government and Heritage
Hon. Gabrielle Upton

(Copies to Penny Sharpe, Terry Barratt and Greens & Country Labor Councillors)

Dear Minister Upton

BirdLife Shoalhaven is a branch of BirdLife Australia, an independent, not-for-profit organization and Australia's largest bird conservation organisation.

BirdLife Shoalhaven [BLS] has been advised of the submission concerning a **'Proposal of the ACF (Shoalhaven Branch) for an addition of an area of vegetated Crown land containing two Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) – Bangalay Sand Forest EEC and Littoral Rainforest EEC – within Crown Reserve 1003018 at Shoalhaven Heads within the City of Shoalhaven to Seven Mile Beach National Park.'**

BLS has a specific interest in that site and the neighbouring area, and has an existing proposal to have the area considered for nomination through BirdLife Australia as a Key Biodiversity Area on the international listing of such areas. Research by BLS this year in preparing the nomination verified that the site proposed by A.C.F. and the broader area of National Park, Nature reserve and Shoalhaven River estuary comprise an area of very high biodiversity value, especially as this involves birds and their habitats.

This embraces a significant number of threatened species as well as resident and migratory shorebirds and forest species. Research from the Atlas of Living Australia also indicated a clear trend to species concentration in the area. This assessment is supported by BirdLife Australia. Regardless of the success of the KBA nomination the natural character, value and biodiversity of the area is regarded as very significant and the site of concern must be subject to appropriate conservation action.

BLS would argue that the appropriate conservation of the site as proposed by ACF Shoalhaven is absolutely necessary from a habitat corridor perspective. The area of the site is a very narrow corridor of the coastal forests habitat and constitutes a choke point for movement of species. Removal of any natural vegetation at the site would thus result in a habitat corridor impact quite disproportionate to the size of the site.

BLS regards the ACF proposal as very necessary to the sensible, appropriate management and conservation of the site and broader area. The ACF proposal has our full support and we recommend it for your support.



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