

The Director, Industry Assessments  
Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

From: [REDACTED]  
St Georges Basin NSW 2540

Reference: **West Culburra Concept Proposal SSD 3846**

**Please find my personal objections to Concept Proposal SSD 3846 at West Culburra**

There are issues arising with the proposed 244 low-density residential lots capable of providing up to 293 dwellings in the Crookhaven River catchment west of the Sewerage Treatment plant.

**Issues**

**1) Crookhaven River and Culburra Beach environment**

This proposal is likely to degrade the environment, particularly the Crookhaven Catchment that is coastal forest.

- a) The proposal to clear 47ha of Currambene Lowland Coastal Forest for construction of the housing estate must be rejected, as the forest is part of a habitat corridor that extends west to the Shoalhaven escarpment and north to the Crookhaven River Wetlands.
- b) This intensive development is proposed in unburnt forest, at a time when so much of the South Coast forests were destroyed in the 2019-2020 fires. This intact forest must be protected as refuge habitat for displaced species.
- c) Threatened Species inhabit these forests and also must be protected as well as the native flora and fauna supported within; some of the known species includes the Glossy Black cockatoo and the Powerful owl

**d) Projected climate change impacts**

Given, future projections from accredited scientists - that bushfire events will be as/more extreme than the recent devastating bushfires thus proving and highlighting the importance of retaining remnant and intact bushland. These circumstances make the Crookhaven River forests, their habitat corridors and mangrove areas even more precious

**2) Crookhaven River degradation**

The proposal is likely to degrade mangroves in the sensitive coastal wetland along the Crookhaven River, causing water quality issues for the oyster and fishing industries.

**The Precautionary Principle** must be utilised, as there can be no accidental spillages or polluted runoff from this development proposal. Heavy rain events can bring polluted rainwater from building sites during construction and later suburban housing runoff from hard surfaces, vehicles, roadways etc and will damage this environmental and economically significant waterway.

### **3) Aboriginal Significance**

Aboriginal middens recognised as Regionally Significant for the Aboriginal peoples could be degraded/lost if this large housing estate with access to the Crookhaven River shore were approved. It is totally inappropriate, against all principles and does not recognise the importance of Aboriginal history and culture now being accepted and appreciated Australia wide.

### **4) Character**

This proposal to provide a possible 293 dwellings is totally out of character for the Culburra Beach area, an outlying village of Nowra with a laid back atmosphere where people love to visit, relax and enjoy the beautiful surrounds. This proposal takes away this character and will make it just another subdivision so typical of others popping up along the coast.

### **5) Bushfires**

Culburra Beach was spared from the jaws of the recent monster bushfires but was in danger as other coastal villages were. The one way in an out narrow road sometimes requires the whole area to be closed. This must be taken into consideration with this and other proposals up and down the coast.

### **6) Lake Wollumboola**

The Internationally significant birdlife supported by Lake Wollumboola must be protected from any indirect impacts. Ongoing developments around the Culburra area can mean death by a thousand cuts. The West Culburra forests & mangrove areas also support some birds and wildlife that inhabit and utilise Lake Wollumboola.

Thank you



Long term resident of St Georges Basin/Shoalhaven

Visitor to Culburra

Member of Birdlife Australia

Member of the Australian Plants Society NSW

