

I write this document in relation to the proposed West Culburra development. My name is [REDACTED] and my prime concerns are in regard to the existing orchid population within the area proposed for development, the immediate surrounding area and Lake Wollumboola. I have been a member of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association for more than 30 years and have given evidence to other NSW bodies.

My First question is the environmental assessment, what were the target species of flora or fauna, when such an EA was undertaken and what were the findings.

As a regular visitor to the area, I am aware of numerous bird life and also the orchids which inhabit both the Casuarina trees and also the numerous terrestrial species surrounding the lake, one of which is *Prasophyllum affine*, and endangered species with which I am deeply involved, having discovered it at Vincentia and being responsible for the construction and monitoring of several "control plots" at Vincentia and Kinghorne Point for over 20 years.

I am also aware of the existence of more than one species of *Cryptostylis* orchid and the possibility of the existence of the rare and vulnerable species in that genus, being *Cryptostylis hunteriana* (Leafless Tongue Orchid). However, I am unaware if any surveys for that species have been undertaken. I am aware this is a difficult species for which to survey as it does not present a leaf as do all other species in the genus and having been responsible for the discovery of more than one population of this orchid, I am aware of the difficulties in its identification, given it has no leaf unlike all others in the genus as these are evergreen and all are pollinated by the same insect.

Apart from this and possibly other terrestrial orchids I am concerns regarding any epiphytes which may be in the trees proposed for destruction. The first is *Dockrillia teretifolia* which is common to *Casuarina glauca* trees which surround Lake Wollumboola and its estuaries and also the more common *Cymbidium suave* which can be found in the hollows of mature eucalypts and numerous broken or logged stumps. If the area has any Ironbark trees there is a possibility of the ironbark orchid (*Tropilis aemula*) occurring in those trees and while it also is common there should be no reason to destroy what plant may be on the site and reduce their numbers.

One of my problems is that I have grave concerns about those conducting the survey as my experience over 30 years indicates many professionally qualified persons are unable to recognise endangered orchids and even some of the more common species. I know this is a fact as many times I have been asked by a professional to identify a species or inform that person where such a species may be located. I have also been sent several photos of orchids to identify which some of these qualified persons were unable to do.

I hope that this project will be subject to a public hearing and concerned members of the public will be able to present their thoughts and ask and answer relative questions. I also expect one or more members of NPWS or the OEH will be on site when clearing is being undertaken to ensure a degree of environmental sensitivity will be conducted as I would like to think such a clearing is not undertaken by the developer without any official or authoritative oversight.

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