

Department of Planning and Infrastructure
23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

I am against any disturbance of the Swan Pond that will occur as a consequence of the RFM for the NCIG.

I am against the Rail Flyover Modification (RFM) for the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) Coal Export Terminal and the serious disturbance to land widely known as the Swan Pond on the Kooragang / Ash Island complex.

I support and back a submission to you from the Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC). This HBOC submission highlights the importance of conservation of the Swan Pond as habitat for migratory waders that are subject to international agreements and are listed under the NSW TSC Act and Commonwealth EPBC Act.

I further support and back the HBOC submission in considering the welfare of the Hunter Estuary as habitat for common and threatened species and simply for the enjoyment of future generations of Newcastle residents.

I agree with the HBOC submission that the recorded decline in the Hunter Estuary of migratory waders reflects the gravity of the situation of habitat loss for these species. The NSW Government and the NSW Planning Department appear to be ignoring this decline.

Summary of points from the HBOC submission

- Swan Pond is a unique brackish wetland of international importance which supports international migratory shorebirds, other threatened species and a species of waterfowl in nationally significant numbers.
- Swan Pond lies within the Hunter Estuary which is the most important destination in NSW for international migratory shorebirds using the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
- Swan Pond is the only brackish wetland of its type remaining on Ash Island/Kooragang Island complex and indeed in the lower Hunter Estuary.
- Swan Pond is important habitat for a diverse range of common local species plus numerous threatened species under the TSC Act and migratory species under the EPBC Act.
- The cumulative impact of the destruction of small brackish wetlands of a similar nature to Swan Pond is reflected by the alarming decline in both species diversity and population numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Thanking you

Greg Little
29 Berrico Avenue
Maryland, NSW, 2287
29.7.12