


**Submission
No 115**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW

Name: Dr Peter Wynn

Date Received: 30 May 2024


The Hon Clayton Barr,
Chair, Committee on Environment and Planning,
Legislative Assembly, NSW Parliament
Re: Approval of historical development consent: Tura Beach NSW
Dear Clayton,

I draw your attention to the historic approval made over 30 years ago for the development of a unique temperate forest ecosystem for housing which borders the seashore adjacent to the Mirador development at Tura Beach NSW.

It is our contention that the ecological sensitivity of this site has not been considered at the time of the approval of this development. You will be well aware that societal thinking on environmental conservation has evolved significantly since this approval was made. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 published by your government in 2021 acknowledges that 43% of our region has high environmental value which forms part of a biodiversity corridor. Of the 1800 identified native plant species, 60 are under threat of extinction while over 100 animal species are under threat (<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/regional-plans/illawarra-shoalhaven-regional-plan-2041/sustainable-and-resilient-region>).


Recent surveys of this micro-environment at Tura have shown that it serves as habitat for 2 of these threatened native species, the Long-Nosed Potoroo and the Yellow-Bellied Glider. It also provides one of only 3 habitats for the rare Merimbula Star Hair plant, the other two sites being near Eden and Mallacoota in Victoria. The development also has the potential to greatly impact on the ecology of the "Back Lake" of Merimbula which must be scrutinized closely.

Your government provided more than \$45 million to assist the Shoalhaven community and businesses to recover following devastating bushfires over the 2019-20 summer. The loss of habitat for both native plants and animals in this event was nothing short of catastrophic. Bega Valley Shire Council (Council, BVSC) recognises that climate change is one of the greatest social, economic and environmental challenges of our time and Council accepts the science and government position on the issue. Part of this recognition must surely be to conserve some of the most sensitive and rare ecological niches in our valley. I understand that a land swap has been suggested for the developer, but of course they recognise the commercial value of this sloping site so close to the ocean.

It is time for your government and our Bega Valley council to reconsider the so called historical "zombie" land development approvals along our NSW coast which are so out of step with our contemporary thinking on the future of our precious environment in the face of the major scourge of our future generations, climate change.

We look forward to your pro-active approach with this issue.

Kind regards,


Peter Wynn
Adjunct Professor of Animal Production
Charles Sturt University

NB These are my personal views and may not necessarily reflect the policies and views of my university.