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Australian Coastal Society Ltd

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Russ Pigg  
General Manager  
Shoalhaven City Council  
P.O. Box 42  
**NOWRA NSW 2541 AUSTRALIA**

Your ref.: DA11/1728

Dear Sir,

I write to express my concern over the proposed championship golf course at Long Bow Point, Culburra Beach.

In the year 2000, a Commission of Inquiry recommended refusal for a development application of 800 lots on this site, based largely on environmental grounds, including the likely adverse impacts on the highly sensitive nature of the intermittently closed or open lake (ICOLL). The Healthy Rivers Commission 'Independent Inquiry into Coastal Lakes' (2002) subsequently recommended a high level of protection for this site and in 2002 Lake Wollumboola itself was included in Jervis Bay National Park. This was taken up in the South Coast Regional Strategy 2006 that proposed Long Bow Point be given the highest level of protection and rezoned E1 National Park in recognition of the area's outstanding biodiversity natural values and environmental significance. However the draft Shoalhaven LEP 2009 now proposes to rezone Long Bow Point E2 Environmental Conservation. Lake Wollumboola itself is currently under investigation for nomination as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The current proposed development for a golf course is at odds with these recommendations and is likely to have significant adverse environmental effects on the outstanding values of the site. Potential adverse impacts from the proposal include clearing of large tracts of high value habitat, fundamental changes to the hydrology of the Lake through irrigation and subsequent groundwater impacts, and a vastly increased quantity of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from fertiliser use filtering into the Lake. This will all lead to detrimental effects on the water quality of the Lake, likely followed by a collapse in unique ecosystems dependent on that regime.

The Australian Coastal Society urges Council to make the right decision by refusing this development application and protecting the site through appropriate zoning in perpetuity. This will assist in establishing a precedent for the preservation and sustainable management of these unique and highly vulnerable coastal lakes on the south coast of NSW.

Yours faithfully,

Tom FitzGerald  
**NSW Branch Convenor**