



NSW Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

15 February 2006

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L.O. NOWRA

Contact: Mathew Kinred
Phone: (02) 4224 9627
Fax: (02) 4224 9650
Email: Mathew.Kinred@dnr.nsw.gov.au

Department of Lands
PO Box 309
NOWRA NSW 2541

Our ref: ERM 2006/04247
Your ref: NA96 R 12

Attention: Karen Fowler

 **E-MAILED**
15-2-06

Dear Karen

**Subject: Proposed Amendment to the Killalea State Park Plan of Management
Crown Reserve D1001339 for Public Recreation at Shellharbour**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 January 2006 requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the Killalea State Park Plan of Management. The following comments are provided:

Coast & Estuaries Management:

- The current 1998 Killalea State Park Plan of Management (POM) focuses on retaining the natural values of the area, particularly passive recreation, education opportunities and the parks impressive scenic values. The proposed amendments to the POM change this focus to intensifying the use of the park for accommodation and tourist facilities. The siting of "tourist related facilities and accommodation" on ridgelines is of particular concern. For example, the Eastern Ridgeline (Area 12), which is proposed for development, can be seen from Killalea Beach, popularly known as "the Farm", and possibly from Minnamurra Beach. These beaches are currently highly valued by the community because they are surrounded by natural landscapes. Development around them will adversely affect their visual amenity and is therefore not supported by the Department. The Department is also concerned about the heritage sites contained within the park and how these will be preserved if development takes place.

These overall changes proposed are likely to be to the detriment of the natural values of the park. Community consultation for the 1998 POM noted that it was the natural values that most attracted them to the park and as such it was seen as being important to retain these values. It also noted that there was considerable opposition to the commercialisation of the park. Commercialisation may reduce the "peace and quiet" as it currently exists in the park. The proposed amendments which would allow additional development within the park are therefore seen to be inconsistent with the desire of the majority of park users.

- Killalea Lagoon is classified as an "Intermittently Closed and Open Lake or Lagoon (ICOLL), which rarely opens to the sea. As such, it is extremely vulnerable to pollutant runoff which can cause water quality problems. The lagoon is also listed under the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia and has been mapped as a SEPP14 - Coastal Wetland. Studies have shown that the lagoon supports a diverse range of bird species. Any development should be located outside the catchment of Killalea Lagoon so as to protect its value as a wildlife habitat, as well as its regional, state and national significance.
- The NSW Coastal Policy (1997) has a number of goals and strategies to protect sensitive coastal lands such as Killalea State Park. These include:
 - To protect and enhance the aesthetic qualities of the coastal zone; and
 - To provide for appropriate public access and use.

The proposed amendments to the Killalea State Park Plan of Management in relation to the proposed development options are not seen as being consistent with the NSW Coastal Policy in these areas.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mathew Kinred on (02) 4224 9627 or mathew.kinred@dnr.nsw.gov.au.

Please forward future correspondence to Keti Nikolovski, Environmental Review Coordinator at Department of Natural Resources, Sydney/South Coast Region, PO Box 867, Wollongong NSW 2520.

Yours sincerely



For **Marwan El-Chamy**
A/Manager, Access and Compliance
Sydney/South Coast Region