

Huskisson Heritage Association Inc.

Submission to the Draft NSW Marine Park Network Management Plan 2021-2031

January 30, 2022

I write on behalf of our Association to protest that this draft document is based on an argument that our Jervis Bay Marine Park is a place to promote economic activities that will not serve the bio-diversity of the park well.

We are an organization with a specific interest in heritage issues and we recognize that the work we do follows in the footsteps of many others in our community, and that much of the heritage held in Jervis Bay has been secured through the community's tireless actions to keep and maintain the quality of the Bay.

Threats to our natural heritage have been in the form of plans to create a major city back at the time of World War 1, through to plans for a nuclear reactor at Murrays Beach in 1970, followed by proposals for establishing a petrochemical plant, a steel mill and wood chipping in the following years. National and state proposals for relocating the Australian Naval Fleet and munitions storage to Jervis Bay followed in the 1980s while local council proposals fought against by the community include plans to dump sewerage in the Bay. As late as 2004 there was a proposal for a bridge across Currambene Creek between Huskisson and Myola, and in the same year a proposal for mooring nuclear ships in the Bay.

This is not a complete list of threats to the outstanding natural heritage significance of Jervis Bay. The community values and fights for its preservation over and over again.

The establishment of the Jervis Bay Marine Park in 1998, effective from 2002 was a great achievement for our community and a clear indication that at last our natural heritage would have a chance of being preserved for the people who live here and the people who love to come here for low-key holidays involving swimming, snorkeling and diving the rich sea world of the Bay, as well as other low impact recreational activities such as casual fishing and bush walking.

We have read this draft plan and we protest that the original meaning of a marine park for protecting bio-diversity is being downgraded within a grab all list of concerns to develop the economic return from marine parks. Your report includes promotion of many activities including increases in fishing rights and harmful tourist activities including cruise ships entering the Bay. There are no doubt serious economic arguments against this, but our concern is that of destroying our heritage.

The report refers to 'partners' that favour economic development with not much input from organizations with expertise in biodiversity or marine issues. These latter groups are the best supporters of our heritage.

The Huskisson Heritage Association has not found any member who supports increased fishing and more destructive water activities, especially the arrival of cruise ships. Many have questioned the assumption that this activity in particular will bring any direct economic benefit to the community.

Jervis Bay is special because of its heritage values. Please understand that residents and holiday makers and tourists value the things that your draft plan seems intent on destroying. Any costs from decreased marine health and bio-diversity through the introduction of many of the activities espoused in the draft plan to our marine environment are costs to the heritage of this place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Warren'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Joanne Warren
Public Officer

On behalf of the Huskisson Heritage Association

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