

Huskisson Heritage Association Inc.

PO Box 51
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17th October 2024

Submission from Huskisson Heritage Association

We ask that the SCC reject Development Application **2024/1759** and **2024/1732**

The 12th of August 2023 Council meeting decided that it *Supports in principle the Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council's Ministerial dated Friday 26 July 2024, requesting a moratorium on Sealark's proposed development at West Culburra.* These DAs are lodged in preparation of said *Sealark's proposed development at West Culburra* and should be rejected to ensure the SCC is consistent with its decision. Giving these consents would send a message to Shoalhaven ratepayers that the SCC will override its own decisions at the behest of the Halloran Foundation and its development arm, Sealark.

Earlier preparations for the development have astonishingly involved the removal of over 19,000 artifacts from the subject land. These artifacts predate European occupation of the Shoalhaven by thousands of years and should be returned from whence they were taken. The tens of thousands more artifacts that are expected to be under threat from this development should be left in situ. This level of material would only be found where generations have lived and manufactured tools, utensils and so on for thousands of years. It is a special place.

The European settlement of the Shoalhaven was devastating to the original inhabitants of the area. Their dislocation, impoverishment and suffering is ongoing. The disrespect and destructive actions of many of our institutions, including the Halloran Foundation, are modern echoes of the early settlers' use of the law, physical force and presumptions of racial superiority over the original owners of the land.

If this development, of which these DAs are a part, go ahead, this history will be continued. The great and inestimable value to the Jerrinja people and the broader First Nations community of this heritage is such that current law and ownership should not be allowed to destroy it.

The acknowledgement of country that Council invokes at all its events should not be cover for actions that ridicule the sentiments expressed.

There are other concerns – biodiversity, damage to coastal sustainability and so on. The HHA will not recite to you the many reports that warn against inappropriate development in this fragile area close to Lake Wollumboola. You know all this.

Please do not approve these DAs and do not assume that your ratepayers do not understand how pernicious they can be as small DAs that are just 'trojan horses', used to progress major developments that have no approvals, and for which there remains much incomplete documentation.



Joanne Warren
Public Officer, Huskisson Heritage Association