



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Conservation Sub-Committee Report for 2020

There are now more than 90 species or subspecies of birds in the Hunter Region that are listed as threatened under either State or Commonwealth threatened species legislation. Further, those habitats that provide home for a diversity of currently non-threatened bird species are also under threat; thus, the conservation arm of the Club remains vitally important. No new species were added to the threatened species legislation during 2020.

Although the Club's concerns mainly revolved around the loss of habitat through various planned developments, submissions were also made to the Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Draft Strategic Plan for Crown Land. The outcomes from these reviews will be of utmost importance to the future of bird species and their habitat.

A sub-committee was formed in 2020 to deal with the ever-increasing number of conservation issues. Members were Ann Lindsey (co-ordinator), Bob and Margaret Stewart and Tom Kendall, with Mick Roderick in an advisory capacity.

Submissions and meetings attended:

- 14/02/2020 – Request to cancel duck hunting season in Victoria. Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Victoria
- 2/03/2020 Italia Road widening and removal of vegetation. Port Stephens Council – submission.
- 9/03/2020 EPBC Act Review. Submission
- 27/03/2020 Fernhill Estate Mulgoa – letter supporting BirdLife Australia's submission for protecting Regent Honeyeater breeding habitat.
- 1/04/2020 Kings Hill Development, Raymond Terrace. Port Stephens Council. Objecting to aspects of project.
- 9/04/2020 Stockton Sand Quarry Dredging. Submission.
- 8/05/2020 Proposed fenced dog off-leash area in Boomerang Park, Raymond Terrace. Port Stephens Council. Submission to change site of off-leash area.
- 20/06/2020 Shortland Waters Golf Club. Requesting ongoing treatment of Water Hyacinth.
- 30/06/2020 Santos Coal Seam Gas project at Narrabri. Independent Planning Commission. Submission objecting to development.
- 00/06/2020 Doughboy Hollow. Re-direction of discharge from Singleton Sewage Treatment Plant.
- 29/07/2020 Walka Waterworks. Maitland Council's Destination Plan. Objection to aspects.
- 16/08/2020 Draft State Strategic Plan for Crown Lands and DPIE. Submission on reservation of suitable land.
- 16/08/2020 Macquarie Pier (Stony Point/Nobbys) Revitalisation Project. Port Authority. Submission requesting information and pointing out importance of Stony Point.

- 28/08/2020 Richmond Vale Rail Trail. Newcastle Council. Submission requesting modifications to project.
- 00/09/2020 Roaming Domestic Cats – submissions sent to ten Councils asking for change in policy so that cats are not permitted to roam.
- 8/11/2020 Maitland Council re: tree felling at Chisholm. (HBOC objected to this in previous two years).
- 16/11/2020 Tomago Issues Meeting with NPWS, HLLS, land owners.
- 00/11/2020 Sport and Recreation Lake Macquarie. (Lake Eraring issue). Objection to status change of project to State Significant Infrastructure Development.
- 21/12/2020 Kooragang Dykes Repair Zoom meeting. As a result of HBOC commitment, 5 years Dykes data sent to HLLS.
- 22/12/2020 Kings Hill Development, Raymond Terrace. Independent Planning Commission teleconference

Ann Lindsey

Conservation Sub-Committee Convener

29 January 2021.