



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
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Landcom Myall Road Development Team,
PO Box 237,
Parramatta, NSW, 2124.
4 June 2023

Myall Road Development DA1284/2013

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc opposes the proposal for a housing development at Myall Road Garden Suburb (DA1284/2013).

This piece of urban woodland is part of a green belt linking from Jesmond Park to Warners Bay and serves as a wildlife corridor. As such it should be given environmental classification and set aside permanently to support biodiversity and provide for human wellbeing. Linkage of woodland areas is also essential in maintaining biodiversity and providing genetic diversity and genetic interchange.

A search of Birdlife Australia's database Birddata has shown 72 species of birds recorded within a one kilometre radius of this woodland. We are aware that during 2020/21 some 92 species of birds were recorded by members of Save Myall Road Bushland Incorporated within the woodland and suburban area. This shows that the quality and diversity of the vegetation still provides foraging and nesting habitat for a significant number of species.

Excising part of the woodland for housing development will increase the edge effect exposing the smaller species such as thornbills, scrubwrens and fairy-wrens to aggression or predation by more urban tolerant species such as butcherbirds, kookaburras and noisy miners.

The vulnerable Powerful Owl has been recorded breeding here at least since 2005. With the boundary of the proposed development coming to within 500 metres of the nest site there is a risk of the birds abandoning the nest site. The clearing of 11.3 Ha of woodland for housing may also impact on the foraging territory sufficiently to drive the birds from the area.

We ask that you abandon the proposed housing development and set aside the whole area as a conservation area.

Submission prepared by T. Kendall on behalf of the Conservation Sub Committee, Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. 4 June 2023.

About the Hunter Bird Observers Club

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) was established in 1976 and currently has a membership of 400 members. Although the Club is based in Newcastle NSW membership includes members from other areas in NSW and from interstate.

Aims of HBOC

to encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat;

and

to encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity.

Activities include monthly regular outings, evening meetings, camps and field studies. HBOC promotes systematic field studies which include regular surveys by volunteers from the membership.

All data gathered from field studies are entered into the national bird record database administered by BirdLife Australia; Birddata <https://birddata.birdlife.org.au/>. Data are used to underpin conservation issues and HBOC promotes systematic surveys and data collection.

HBOC has a long history of working in collaboration with local councils, national parks and other state agencies, industry and schools.

For more information go to www.hboc.org.au