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Member of the NSW Legislative Council

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Parliament House
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Sydney NSW 2000

Central Coast Council
By email: ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Re: DA30219/2006, 45 Hillview Street WOY WOY NSW 2256
Section 96 Amendment - Building Modifications to Enable Use as Residential Care Facility

9 February 2017

Dear Council,

I write following serious concerns raised with my office from residents of the Central Coast about DA30219/2006 that the approval of this amended DA will have a devastating impact on local biodiversity.

The site has been identified as containing Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland UCSW, an internationally rare and beautiful example of vegetation that only grows on the peninsula. It also provides crucial habitat to the endangered Bush Stone Curlew.

As you would be aware, the former Gosford Council took steps to protect the site in 2004 recognizing its biological importance for the region. Following this and a number of court challenges, an approved DA for 37 seniors living apartments was approved with strict conditions in place to limit damage to the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland.

One such condition was that regular bushcare take place on the land and that signage be erected and maintained to alert people to existence of Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland on the land. We have received reports that this condition has not been complied with, and that furthermore the fencing of the relevant part of the site is in poor condition.

With this history of failure to properly protect this site it seems clear that more intense development in the area as proposed with this amendment to the DA would irreparably damage the vegetation and threaten local biodiversity. The surrounding area has been subject to significant development over recent years, making it all the more important that remaining habitat is protected where possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. For the reasons above we believe the DA should be refused in its current form.

Kind regards,

David Shoebridge MLC