

ECO-PROJECTS PLANNED FOR WOLLONGONG AND RELATED NOTES

Marine building and transport

Brian Dooley, Manager of Southern Projects, Department of Primary Industries, Catchments and Lands, seeks development proposals for Belmore Basin (i.e. Wollongong Harbour). The Harbour is on the NSW Heritage Register so a formal approval is required from the Heritage Council (Section 60 Application). The Department will make it.

A related submission by Architects Borst and Conacher (23.11.12) entitled 'Belmore Basin (Wollongong Harbour) Upgrade proposes a Wollongong Ferry Terminus for Belmore Basin Development and 'a Fisherman's wharf type development in the vicinity of the former Tee Jetty and slipway'.

A business proposition for creation of a new company entitled Illawarra Ferries Pty Ltd is made by Frank Coluccio of Hi-Tech Consulting, in consultation primarily with the company Solar Sailor. The proposal is for ferries which first make two round trips from Circular Quay, Sydney to Wollongong and Kiama Harbour 350 days a year.

(One wonders why a proposal for any building should be accepted in ignorance of the eco-development requirements of the marine parks on which Wollongong was built.)

Nine projects from an Illawarra Eco Tourism Workshop in March 2012, held by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Illawarra Eco Tourism Association.

1. Feature Aboriginal interpretive tours along the coast
 2. Establish an Aboriginal cultural centre at Bellambi near the middens
 3. Foreshore Parkland from Thirroul to Kiama
 4. Purchase/lease the Old Bulli mine site and restore the rain forest to a standard similar to Mt Keira Scout camp site
 5. Establish an eco-tourism centre at the Old Bulli mine site with cabins and interpretive tours up the mountain along the Aboriginal Dreaming/Throsby track and down to Sandon point
 6. Establish a second eco tourism facility with restored coastal flora environment at Fairy Meadow beach adjacent to the surf club
 7. Restore Puckey's and conduct interpretive tours through to Towradgi where Matthew Flinders is said to have landed
 8. Establish interpretive tours at Belmore Basin
 9. Restore Red Point military facilities and conduct Aboriginal interpretive tours, as a place which is noted in Captain Cook's diary
- Lead proponents of Projects 1 and 2 are the Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council.
 - Lead proponents of Project 3 are the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils.

- Lead proponents of Projects 4&5 are not stated: ‘call upon BHP Billiton to account on social responsibility and negotiate a grant or purchase a ninety nine year lease’.
- Lead proponents of Projects 6&7 are Wollongong City Council/Tourism Wollongong
- Lead proponents of Projects 8&9 are Aboriginal Land Council, Wollongong City Council/Bluescope Steel/Illawarra Business Chamber

John Mant, former NSW commissioner against corruption, lawyer and town planner met with the Wollongong lord major to discuss the plan made at the workshop at which he was facilitator. Mr Mant is now elected to the City of Sydney Council.

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The Eco-Tourism vision states that they have interest from an investor in the establishment of ‘fully sustainable Eco Tourist Villages’, expected to be open for business by the summer of 2015/2016. It is also proposed that an ECO-CITY World Summit should also be held in Wollongong in 2015. One awaits a more open proposal on the villages wondering why the particular sites have been chosen, as Australian native peoples were traditionally nomadic hunter gatherers rather than farmers. No fishing?

One also notes students from the UOW and TAFE Illawarra Institute are hoping the ‘Illawarra Flame’, a net-zero energy, solar powered house, designed by the group, will do well in the competition at the 2013 Solar Decathlon China event in Datong China. The team has been challenged to design, build and operate an advanced and appealing solar powered house that is not only energy efficient but also cost effective to build.

We value **green, simple, cheap, reliable** production very highly because these are key product and service virtues to assist many old or poor consumers and communities globally, while serving also to assist many related workers, students and those with disabilities to find better futures. Taxes, premiums or other levies, risk rated or not, are ideally conceptualised, collected and spent in openly planned, related and managed community and industry funding contexts in openly shared zones or places.

Eco-tourism ideally occurs in shared and openly managed regional contexts which provide many information, work, study, exercise, entertainment and related opportunities, services and products.