

Bruce Wilson
9 McDougall Street
East Ballina
NSW 2478

October 12, 2009

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

Re: The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Report No. DC08174—September 2009, for the proposed Ballina Wastewater Reclamation and Augmentation Program

SUBMISSION

Dear Mr Hickey,

I have read the above EIS, and I accept that Council makes a strong case *in general* for its planned works in regard to the worthwhile conservation of water resources and the enlargement and refurbishment of sewerage treatment facilities in the face of continued population growth.

However, in this submission I wish to express my **objection** to the taking over of the Kings Court reserve in Lennox Head, perhaps one of the best parks in the area, as the proposed site for a massive grey-water storage reservoir. A recreational area of a good size, *level*, accessible to the general public, and visually pleasing, it is in particular an *amenity* for the surrounding residential development. If the tank is sited here, it may be seen as a precedent and residents might well ponder the possibilities of further encroachment in the future on what remains of the reserves in the immediate area. Indignant residents around the proposed site note that the recycled water will not even be available to them. The intended users are to the south and west in newer estates existing, under construction or at planning stage.

The alternative site for the Lennox Head recycled grey-water tank, is named in the EIS as the "Pacific Pines site". This consists of a narrow strip of reserve of irregular shape extending from a North Creek frontage westward to the existing boundary of the two private properties on either side. **The EIS provides no map showing this reserve or the proposed site of the tank, although maps are elsewhere available.** The reserve narrows to a point on the western boundary, where there is a small open grassed area. With the exception of this western end and a few metres on the North Creek Rd end, the reserve is scrub-covered. Some trees, including Morton Bay Fig and Norfolk Pine (mentioned in the EIS) are included, together with the ubiquitous pest species, lantana. It is also rumoured to contain a "threatened" species, the Hairy-jointed Grass, although its presence is yet to be confirmed. The reserve is unmarked by Council signposts, and inaccessible to the public. **It has no observable boundary fence on the northern side between it and private property. I cannot find anywhere in the EIS a detailed description of the comparative advantages of the two sites for the purpose intended.**

Thus it is by inference that one feels that the amenity provided by this reserve to the surrounding residents and the general public is practically zero, **and that its loss would not have any remarkable impact. Quite the reverse of the situation in Kings Court, it would seem.**

Referring to Appendix G (Report by Everick Heritage Consultants P/L, September 2009) in the EIS document, it becomes clear that **a third site, in Basalt Court Lennox Head was previously considered as the preferred site for the new reservoir**. The consultants say on p34 of their report, "The pipeline route commences at a new reservoir site next to the existing reservoir of Basalt Court, probably on the site of an existing residence to the north ...", and on p35, "Two alternative locations for the reservoir were also inspected." It is clear from the report that these two were the Kings Court and Pacific Pines sites, presently under consideration in the final EIS.

As far as I can determine the EIS makes out no case for the ultimate rejection of the Basalt Court site, after first giving it precedence over the other two. Certainly the heritage consultants, *in September*, were still under the impression that Basalt Court was on the head of the list. One can only speculate on Council's reasons for an abrupt change of mind.

Finally, did Council's planners ever consider the option of not having the reservoirs at all? There is provision in the present plan for pumping recycled water directly to the end-users, using existing and planned new pipelines, but bypassing the reservoirs.

The "no reservoirs" option would yield an immense saving in capital costs, apart from setting the minds of the residents of Kings Court and its surrounds at rest with regard to the threatened loss of their valued reserve.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Wilson