

Mayor and aldermen, thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting. My primary concern is the ongoing health and viability of Milford Forest, that supports the 3 EPBC listed orchid species.

I acknowledge the highway up-grade will go ahead in its current form, it probably isn't the most cost effective solution or the best environmental solution but it is what we have to work with so you have the opportunity to make a decision tonight to achieve the best outcome from a bad situation.

The planning response to the DA states - The proposal's assessable works are not located within the Biodiversity Protection Area overlay in the LIST map. That is because the Biodiversity Protection Area overlay is incomplete and none of Milford Forest Biodiversity values are shown on this overlay, despite being recorded in several other overlays in LIST map. Clearly you cannot approve the DA knowing the information used to assess it is wrong.

Clarence Bushland & Coastal Strategy' states its aims as "Healthy landscapes, Healthy community" and 'The key roles for Clarence City Council are' to Partner with key land custodians in seeking to prevent biodiversity loss.

The ongoing preservation of Milford Forest biodiversity is reliant on the Milford property continuing to be an economically viable enterprise so the Lewis family can continue to manage the forest for conservation, this is particularly important on a national if not global level as the sagg spider orchid and milford leek orchid grow nowhere else on earth.

The issue of suitable road access to the property is vital to the 5 businesses that currently operate from there and any future ventures to be considered. As a tourism business operator and tour guide I know well the tourism opportunities Milford offers as it has heritage values, cultural values for our first nation people and nature tourism opportunities because of its close proximity to Hobart and biodiversity. Specialist tour opportunities may include but not limited to botanical tours focusing on the orchids and old growth forest, birding tours as the forest is a haven for birds including 3 wedge tailed eagles who use Milford as part of their range, a number of species who nest in the tree hollows and shore birds along the Pittwater foreshore.

None of these opportunities are viable without safe, easy and convenient access that isn't covered in this DA. I would not feel safe entering the highway with a bus full of guests via the Left-in, Left-out proposal in the current DA so you must reject the DA in its current form and have alternative safer access from Pittwater Road included in a revised DA so that it meets both the needs of Milford current and future businesses in a safe manner. Throughout the planning response there is considerable mention of relocating the infrequently used Taswater access from Tasman Highway to Pittwater Road but little mention of an alternative, safe access to Milford to continue to undertake its current and future business enterprises, so again you must reject the DA in its current form.

