

East Coast Alliance Annual General Meeting 29 September 2019

President's Report – Anne Held

Welcome to the East Coast Alliance (ECA) inaugural Annual General meeting.

Well, what a year and a half we have all had. Eighteen months ago we were here in this very room at the Swansea Courthouse, for the very first meeting of the East Coast Alliance (ECA).

Today, I am extremely humbled and grateful for the support and trust you and so many others have shown to the East Coast Alliance. From the ECA 's humble beginnings I can now report:

- we have almost 700 on our database
- over 250 Facebook followers
- we were integral in the facilitation of 611 submissions to council that did NOT support the Cambria Green planning amendment application, and
- with our partners we filled the Hobart Town hall to overflowing for a public meeting.

I would like to reflect on why the ECA was formed. Our aim is to:

- challenge and stop the SAP (Specific Area Plan rezoning)
- protect our cultural, social, economic and environmental asset
- lobby and garner support from planning, environmental and legal experts, and
- hold the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and State Government accountable for decision-making processes.

If the Cambria Draft Amendment and other planning amendments are approved, these changes would allow for one of, if not *the*, largest tourist developments ever proposed on the East Coast of Tasmania.

Tasmanian Planning Commission Update

The Cambria Draft Amendment is now with the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC).

I want to particularly thank four individuals for their dogged determination, relentless research and persistence in endeavouring to stop what they believe to be not right: Ross Irving, Alain Coultier, Andrew Wyminga and Dr Peggy James.

The TPC's first public hearing – only on jurisdictional issues – was held on 30 August. The Commission is yet to bring down a decision on these jurisdictional matters. All closing jurisdictional submissions have been received by the TPC and are available to read on the iplan website at:

<https://iplan.tas.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track.Assessment/SearchAssessment.aspx?id=844>

It is not known when the TPC Panel will bring down a decision on the jurisdictional issues.

Should the TPC decide they do not have jurisdiction to assess the Cambria Green Planning Amendment application, then several things could happen:

- The proponent's solicitor appeals the decision and it will go to the Supreme Court.
- The proponent will re-apply, making sure that the application is watertight. This would mean the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (GSBC) would have to decide (again) whether to initiate the application, or not.
- The proponent does not lodge another application for planning amendments but starts to lodge Development Applications to GSBC that sit under the current planning scheme.
- Should the TPC accept the landowner consents as legal, a deadline will then be set for the East Coast Alliance planners and all other interested parties (including all those who have previously made a representation) to respond to all **other** matters relating to the Cambria Draft Amendment.
- The TPC will then schedule hearings to listen to the arguments for and against, based on the merits of the Planning Amendment application. This process could potentially take months.

What could then happen?

- If the TPC rejects the Planning Amendment application on planning reasons, there are no grounds (under current planning laws) to appeal. An appeal is only possible if judicial issues are involved in the process.
- As above, the proponent could start to lodge Development Applications to GSBC under the current planning scheme.
- The proponent could choose to take no further action.

What else has been happening?

We have been meeting with a significant number of politicians across all parties, briefing them on the campaign, outlining the implications of what could happen if the Cambria Draft Amendment and other planning amendments were to be approved and asking for their support if and when needed.

We have a meeting with a state government Cabinet Minister next week and are in the process of organising an MLC briefing.

What can you do?

We are incredibly grateful to the support so many people have given to our campaign, and we encourage everyone to continue by:

- Writing to politicians, local Councillors and the media
- Sharing our Facebook page

- Subscribing to East Coast Alliance for updates
- Joining as a Member and Donating

Before I sum up, I would like to thank a number of special people. Without them our job in this campaign would have been a lot more arduous:

- **Di Bricknell** for the ECA website design, development and updating, and for all other ECA graphic design work.
- **Mike Travalia** for our powerful logo design.
- **ERA Planners** whom we engaged within two weeks of forming. They have been fantastic from day one – incredibly supportive, providing guidance and encouragement, with their expertise often delivered at the ‘drop of a hat’. We know they go far and beyond the fees they charge.
- **EDO Tasmania** for their always available counsel, advice and support from the ECA’s inception.
- **Sophie Underwood** for working with us closely on many issues.
- **Peter McGlone and Jack Redpath from Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT)** for always being available with advice and wisdom.
- The **ECA Committee**: Steve Barrett (Vice President), Marjorie Howard (Treasurer), Maureen Stevenson and Mitty Williams (Committee members) and **Jennie Churchill Secretary Extraordinaire**, for her tireless work, commitment and insistence on perfection.
- **And finally, YOU** and the many generous members of the community – far and wide – who have donated to support our campaign and taken the time to write to Councillors, politicians and the media.

Tasmania, and especially the East Coast, is a place of community and landscape so unique that it is rare in this modern world.

Despite our differing opinions and political perspectives, a lot of us hold the same set of values about community and connection to our landscape, and about what makes Tasmania great.

It is imperative that we can inspire reflections and communication about those values and the best way to safeguard what makes Tasmania, and the East Coast so special.

Anne Held
President

See over for Fundraising Report ...

Fundraising Report – Jennie Churchill

Through the extraordinary, continuing generosity of so many people, many of whom are in the room today, we have raised significant funds for our campaign. We have received donations not just from within Tasmania but from around Australia and internationally.

Alongside the funds raised to cover the costs of our planners, ERA Planning (who have been so generous in their time and support since May 2018), we have a target of \$35,000 for the campaign. Should the TPC move on to hearings on planning matters, we have engaged, along with ERA Planners, an ecologist, agricultural consultant, heritage consultant and the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO).

We currently have a higher bank balance than shown on the end June 2019 financial statements you have to hand. And most importantly, we are very pleased to announce we secured a \$15,000 grant from a private foundation (the funders wish to remain anonymous). These funds, which are being held in trust until we call on them, take us to within reach of our target figure (given we have ongoing costs).

Other ways people have helped us fundraise:

- The Hobart Town Hall meeting achieved over \$3,000 donations on the day, thanks to The Wilderness Society for organising and manning the donation buckets.
- Libby Wardlaw and Steve and Sue Barrett opened their houses in September for Sustainable Housing Day with all gold coin donations going to the ECA.

I'd like to assure everyone the costs of the AGM catering have been donated by ECA Committee members, with Devil's Corner giving us a very generous discount on the sparkling and wine here today.

Finally, we would like to warmly thank Libby Wardlaw. Libby has donated a 2004 bottle of Clover Hill sparkling produced exclusively for the Danish Royal wedding of (our) Princess Mary and Crown Prince Frederik. We're launching the raffle today so make sure you buy tickets (to be drawn on 16 December 2019).

Jennie Churchill
Secretary