



THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

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National Trust Calls to Protect Jewel of the Coast

The National Trust (NSW) continues its opposition to the current proposed housing developments at Catherine Hill Bay, which threaten one of the few remaining examples of a coastal mining village in NSW.

The new additional development proposal for 300 dwellings, put forward by Coal and Allied, compounds problems previously identified with the original 600 dwelling proposal for the township by RoseCorp (still subject of approval).

National Trust (NSW) Director, Tina Jackson, says Catherine Hill Bay is historically significant and has been listed as an Urban Conservation Area by the Trust.

“The former mining village is an important part of the heritage of the Hunter Valley and the present low-scale of development is one of its primary attractions,” she said.

“The Trust is not opposed to development and accepts the ongoing demands for housing. However, new development should not be at the expense of a unique and valuable cultural environment that has evolved over a century.

“This proposed development will dwarf the existing village of 60 dwellings and destroy the intrinsic beauty of the township.

“The Trust also has concerns about the way public consultation has been managed. Although notification of the most recent development proposal was made on 5 December, 2007, key documents were only released on 21 January this year, leaving just a week for the community to prepare submissions in response,” Ms Jackson said.

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The National Trust is Australia’s oldest conservation charity. It is not-for-profit and independent, relying on support from its members and the community to assist its work – which includes advocacy for the protection of built, natural and cultural heritage, conservation and education.

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