

NEWS BULLETIN Jervis Bay Community Cruiseship Coalition (JBCCC)

16 September 2021

Who are we?

The JBCCC is a coalition of concerned community groups from the various Community Consultative Bodies (CCB's) around Jervis Bay including Callala, Huskisson, Hyams Beach, St Georges basin as well as Vincentia Matters and Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt that represent the views of the community to council. It is intended that by acting together, the Coalition will be recognised as a major stakeholder and be included in any major decision making process that will affect the Jervis Bay community and environment.

Why do we exist?

The JBCCC is not politically aligned and was formed to question the proposal to have Jervis Bay as a destination for cruise ships, to research the impacts of cruising, and to ensure that the community is consulted and informed. We aim to preserve the pristine environment of Jervis Bay and the natural heritage values of the Jervis Bay Marine Park, maintain the amenity for the local community and monitor the implications of cruise ships for the adjoining land based national parks.

The story so far...

As it currently stands, cruise ship visitation (a commercial activity) is allowable in Jervis Bay in accordance with the existing management rules for the marine park, but requires a permit and **the consent of the relevant minister. Consent can only be granted if the activity is ecologically sustainable and does not have a significant impact on any fish populations or on any other animals, plants or habitats.**

As the Minister's authorised delegated officers, DPI Fisheries Marine Operations staff at Jervis Bay Marine Park use an assessment framework that will ensure the activity is ecologically sustainable and help to inform the Minister's decision.

As far as we know there has been no application for a permit by any cruise companies, however there is at least one company currently advertising a cruise itinerary which includes Jervis Bay.

This has become all the more urgent as there is a review of Marine Park Management that is about to be released that we are concerned will provide a pathway and support for other strategies such as the 2018 NSW Cruise Development Plan. A draft version of the management plan allowed for cruise ships to enter Jervis Bay in a commercial capacity.

“Through the Cruise Development Plan, the NSW Government will investigate opportunities to remove regulatory barriers to entry for emerging cruise markets, including the expedition cruise market, and will seek and inter-jurisdictional policy positions with other governments to support market growth”. One of their specific actions is to “establish a strategy to drive incremental increase in cruise ship arrivals along the South Coast over five years”.

Research thus far suggests that the Port Authority, Transport NSW, the Dept. of Primary Industries and Destination NSW are key drivers of the proposal.

To date there has been NO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION or information given to the public regarding cruise ships in Jervis Bay.

What do we want?

We want access to accurate and honest information about cruise ships in Jervis Bay.

We want proper research conducted into the impacts of cruising on the bay and monitoring to be commenced in particular with regards to:

- Impact on resident dolphins – noise, increased boat traffic, disturbance to food populations, disturbance to breeding
- Impact on resident penguins, and visiting whales with calves
- Benthic (sea floor) disturbance
- Damage from anchoring
- Shading of sea grasses
- Discharge of cooling water – will this happen?
- Safety issues of accessing Huskisson wharf at particular tides

We want to preserve the pristine environment of the bay and surrounding areas.

We want to know who will ultimately sign off on this decision (currently it is Adam Marshall & Matt Keane)

We want to be considered stakeholders and not just consulted.

What have we done so far?

We have written to all Shoalhaven Councillors to ask their stance on cruise ships in Jervis Bay.

We have enquired of relevant authorities if any applications have been received.

We have written to the Port Authority with a list of key questions we want answered whilst cruise ships are being considered for Jervis Bay.

We have requested from the Huskisson Chamber of Commerce their stance on cruise ships and asked to be kept informed of any developments they might be aware of.

What can YOU do?

Stay up to date with the latest developments by joining the [JBCCC Facebook Group](#) or checking in to the [WEB PAGE](#) .

Post and share relevant cruise research and information on the FB Group.

Tell your friends and ask them to get involved.

We would love help with research, communications and social media in particular if anyone with expertise is out there?!

#keepjervisbayunspoilt