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Add estate to national park, urges Cr Guile

By RUSSELL QUINN

SHOALHAVEN City Councillor Andrew Guile has called for the controversial Heritage Estate to be classified as National Park land after a decision by the Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, to rule out rezoning of the 1200 blocks.

"The solution for both the environment and the current land-holders is for the state to acquire the land with the assistance of the Commonwealth Government," Cr Guile said.

"Our work is not done if all levels of government are serious about protecting the environmental sensitivities of this area," he said.

Mr Garrett issued a preliminary determination that none of the 1200 blocks near Jervis Bay be rezoned for residential development based on the land's proximity to Booderee National Park and its environmental value.

"We understand that Minister Garrett refused the proposal for rezoning due to the impacts on eco-

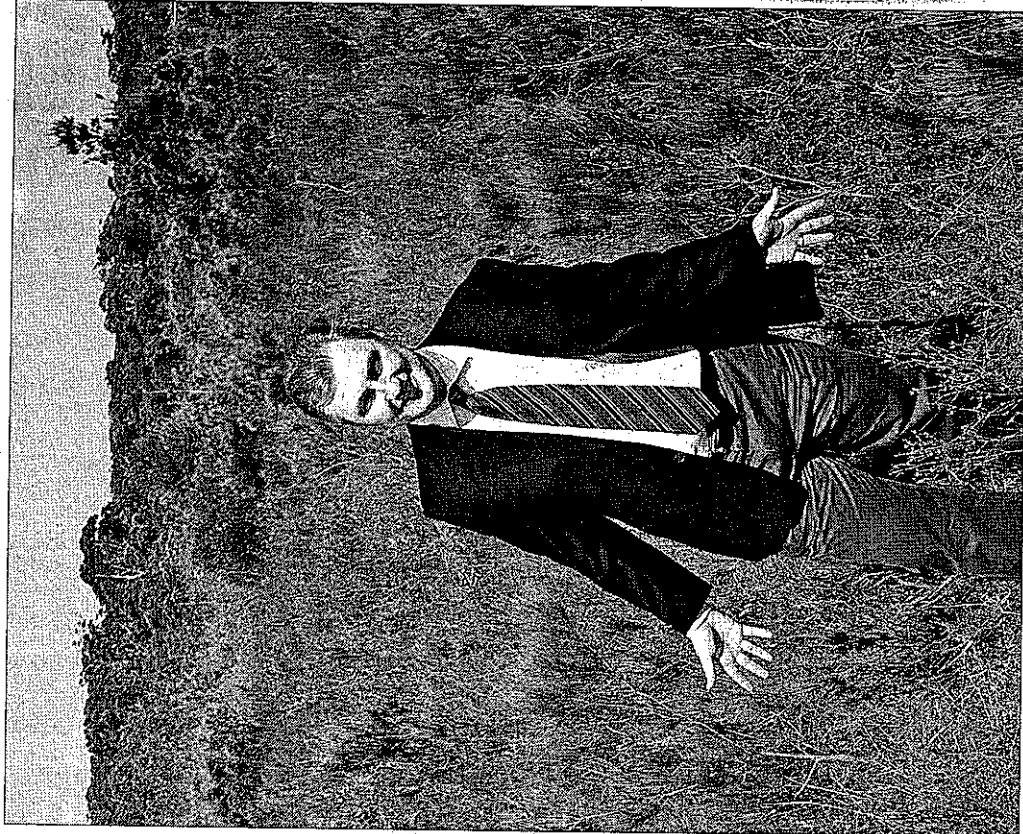
logical integrity of the nearby Booderee National Park and the likely impacts on nationally threatened species," he said.

Cr Guile met with Commonwealth National Parks representatives along with council staff last week.

"I am pleased to say that Commonwealth National Parks recognise the need to act quickly to secure the environmental value of the land which is currently in fragmented ownership and under a rural zoning," Cr Guile said.

"Public acquisition and management of this land is the best way of ensuring conservation into the future," he said.

"This is a unique situation and an opportunity for the Commonwealth and NSW governments to resolve a longstanding contentious issue with a positive outcome for all stakeholders, especially the landowners who are financially, socially and psychologically impacted by the Minister's decision," Cr Guile said.



CALL FOR ACTION: Councillor Andrew Guile has called upon the Commonwealth Government to pitch in and purchase land at the controversial Heritage Estate after Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, ruled out rezoning of the 1200 blocks.

Survey seeks thoughts on a burning issue

MEMBER for South Coast Shelley Hancock has begun a campaign to gather information on what residents believe needs to be done to protect the Shoalhaven from bushfire threats.

This week, Mrs Hancock launched a hazard reduction survey across the South Coast elec-



Narooma man faces Batemans Bay Court on murder charge

THE 26-year-old Narooma man accused of beating his neighbour to death last month faced Batemans Bay Local Court on Monday.

Earlier this year Justin Cox of Harper Crescent, Narooma, was charged with the murder of his 47-year-old neighbour Sam Connelly.

In tendered documents police allege Cox punched the victim in the mouth after he arrived home to find one of his windows had been smashed.

On January 2 police were called to the units and found Mr Connelly suffering serious injuries. He was rushed to Moruya District Hospital but had a heart attack on the way.

Cox will appear in Batemans Bay Local Court via audiovisual link on Friday.

Change the globe to help save the planet

IN the lead-up to Earth Hour this