

POLICY POSITION – Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association (July 2016)

This Policy Position supports the stated objectives of the Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association and Dune Care Inc. *to work for the advancement of the Catherine Hill Bay community and environment.*

1. The Progress Association (CHBPA) acknowledges and fully respects the Indigenous custodians, the Lake Macquarie clan of the Awabakal and pledge to do our utmost to continue to care for this special place.
2. We support the State Heritage Listing of the Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct. This historic and environmental gem should be preserved for the benefit of the region and for future generations.
3. We believe the State Heritage listing should be expanded from the coast to the western ridges as well as including the jetty.
4. We maintain that not only the villages and individual heritage items need to be protected, but also the cultural and environmental setting. The tree lined entry into and out of the villages, the remnants of rail, marine and industrial infrastructure, and the relationship of the man-made environment to its natural context (both beach and bush) is equally important.
5. To ensure the protection of the bushland and coastal dunes which include endangered ecological communities and plants.
6. The heritage character and attributes of Catherine Hill Bay must be protected from the current and growing trend to fence and lock areas of Catherine Hill Bay. Historically, these villages have always had minimal fencing and extensive areas of open space and commons accessible to all – residents and visitors alike. We support the Catherine Hill Bay Heritage Conservation Area Plan of Lake Macquarie City Council.
7. The CHBPA does not oppose appropriate new development, but the character of new buildings, while not mimicking, needs to be sympathetic to the scale and built form of the existing structures and should not impinge on the visual catchment of the historic villages. Important views in and out of the villages also need sensitive consideration.
8. The CHBPA supports the principles of the sustainability and community development plans of Lake Macquarie City Council and we are aware of the need to mitigate climate change impacts.
9. We aim to build on our strong local community and to engage the wider community through various means, such as the provision of scenic and heritage walks, signage, newsletters, surveys, festivals, markets and other activities such as Clean Up Australia Day.
10. The Association supports the town facilities such as the Tennis Court, and the Bowling Club and Community Centre.

(*) Amended (24 September 2006; amended 24th February 2008, 5th March 2010, 11th May 2012, 23 July 2016).