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Attention: Eric Hollinger, Coordinator Special Projects

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Halloran Trust Planning Proposal – Culburra Groundwater Assessment Report

Dear Gordon

Thank you for your correspondence seeking the Department's advice and direction on the outcomes of the Culburra Groundwater Assessment Report (HGEO, August 2020) to enable the planning proposal to be progressed.

I would like to commend Council on the extensive work undertaken to define the Lake Wollumboola catchment which has included a two-year groundwater monitoring program. The Department considers that the report fulfils the requirements of condition 2(b)(i) of the 18 November 2015 Gateway determination to prepare a study that defines the catchment boundaries of the Lake Wollumboola and Crookhaven River Catchments based on a hydrogeomorphic study, that considers groundwater issues.

The Department notes the outcomes of the Culburra Groundwater Assessment Report, particularly the findings and recommendations that:

- The divide between the Lake Wollumboola and Crookhaven River groundwater catchments should be considered coincident with the surface water catchment defined by topography.
- While the degree of connection between fractured zones cannot be determined from the existing bore network, there is potential for migration of contaminants to the lake edge environment via fracture zones if contamination reaches the water table. Land use planning should avoid or mitigate potential for contamination of groundwater within the Lake Wollumboola catchment.
- Areas between the main ridge line north of Culburra Road and the mid-slope areas in both catchments are dominated by rainfall recharge. It is recommended that land use within the recharge-dominated areas of Lake Wollumboola Catchment (mid-slope to ridge-top) includes significant open and unpaved areas in those important recharge areas.

Based on the Report's recommendations, as well as recommendations of the 2013 "Environmental Sensitivity of Lake Wollumboola" report prepared by Peter Scanes, the Department considers urban development in the area between Culburra Road and the catchment divide would not be appropriate due to the risk of contamination of the Lake. There may, however, be some potential for limited low-scale development in this area such as appropriate private or public recreation, ecotourism or environmental stewardship. Any development would need to be sited and designed to direct surface stormwater (and any appropriately treated wastewater) to the Crookhaven catchment or, if unavoidable and justified,