

From: "cygnetmuseum@clhm.org" <cygnetmuseum@clhm.org>
Sent: Mon, 30 May 2022 16:21:08 +1000
To: "Huon Valley Council" <hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au>
Cc: "cygnetmuseum@clhm.org" <cygnetmuseum@clhm.org>
Subject: Road Corridor at Channel Highway Cygnet Representation from CLHM
Attachments: Road Corridor - Loss of View April 2022.pdf

To the Huon Valley Council,

The committee of the Cygnet Living History Museum emphasises the cultural and historical importance of this view of Port Cygnet and requests that the Scenic Road Corridor along the Channel Highway be maintained for the benefit of local residents and visitors to this beautiful region, please see attached documents for full details.

Should any further information be required please do not hesitate to contact the museum.

Yours faithfully,

Teresa Hallinan - President

Cygnet Living History Museum
37 Mary Street Cygnet 7112 TAS
cygnetmuseum@clhm.org
PH: 03 6202 9713 [Limited hours]



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Representation from Cygnet living History Museum on proposed removal of Scenic Road Corridor at Channel Highway Cygnet

The Cygnet Living History Museum is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the built and cultural heritage of Port Cygnet and the surrounding areas for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Land use planning plays an important role in maintaining the character and amenity of the township and surrounds, and the museum committee notes with concern the proposed removal of the 60m wide Scenic Road Corridor on the south side of the Channel Highway immediately south of Cygnet.

In the *Huon Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2015* the Scenic Corridor protects the spectacular view that is presented to all road users as they leave Cygnet to travel south on the Channel Highway, and is one of the iconic views of Port Cygnet that is portrayed on postcards. It is in fact the only extensive view of the waterway from the Channel Highway southern of Cygnet.

In 1802, the French expedition led by Nicholas Baudin, sailed into Port Cygnet (Porte des Cygnes) and the sailors and scientists were the first Europeans to visit the area. The records of their initial experiences of the magnificent views and their friendly meetings with the local Aboriginal people, especially Oura Oura, are recorded in detail.

In more recent historical terms the importance of wetlands was recognised through the establishment of the Port Cygnet Conservation Area in 1901, and this section of the Channel Highway provides the view from the former saleyards at the top of the hill where local producers gathered regularly to buy and sell produce until the 1970s. Sharing the view must have been part of the saleyards experience for local people.

The Scenic Protection Code aims to recognise and protect landscapes that are identified as important for their scenic values, by regulating development that may impact on their values, features and characteristics (p.62).

Reference to Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Huon Valley Draft LPS HUO-C8.2.15

The rationale for the Scenic Road Corridor is provided by the following statements, and, regarding the section of the Channel Highway from Cygnet to Gardners Bay, the Management Objectives are consistent with maintaining the Scenic Road Corridor:

(a) to provide and maintain view corridor along the road alignment that enhance the traveller experience, through the setback of buildings from the road corridor and minimising building bulk in proximity to the road;

(b) That development and works minimises visual obtrusion to prominent view lines to visually significant and notable local landforms, waterforms vegetation and/or cultural features such as the Huon River and other significant landmarks.

Although the reference is to the Huon River, which is not visible from this section of the Channel Highway, it also applies to Port Cygnet. The key landscape features are the wide view of Port Cygnet with pasture in the foreground, wetlands that form the south portion of the Port Cygnet Conservation

Road Corridor at Channel Highway Cygnet Representation from CLHM

Area in the middle-ground and the open bay with surrounding hills in the background. Further support for maintaining this section of the corridor is provided in the Scenic Value, with particular reference to Port Cygnet, through the following criteria:

(a) The Scenic Road Corridor between Cygnet and Deep Bay provides opportunities to view Port Cygnet and floodplains in the foreground, middle-ground and background

(b) Views to Port Cygnet (and the Huon River) provide opportunities for observation of wildlife, including migratory birds (Note that flocks of black swans are often to be seen in winter, grazing in the area covered by this section of the Scenic Road Corridor).

(i) Views to the surrounding vegetated hills, peaks and mountains enhance the scenic value of the corridor.

The waterway of Port Cygnet is the most important visual and historical feature of the area, and was for many years the only practical transport route to and from the township and surrounding areas, and there were numerous jetties in prominent positions. One of these was the important jetty at Crooked Tree Point. The site easily visible from this section of the Channel Highway, and it is not uncommon for travellers and local residents to visit the remains of the jetty there. From that position the whole of Port Cygnet and the many moored boats are clearly visible.

There are currently no significant buildings within this section of the Scenic Road Corridor and it is therefore a particularly important part of the traveller experience. Its importance to the cultural heritage of Cygnet and Port Cygnet should be recognised by maintaining the Scenic Road Corridor, as it was in the *Huon Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2015*.

The committee of the Cygnet Living History Museum emphasises the cultural and historical importance of this view of Port Cygnet and requests that the Scenic Road Corridor along the Channel Highway be maintained for the benefit of local residents and visitors to this beautiful region.

Should any further information be required please do not hesitate to contact the museum.

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Teresa Hallinan,

President