

Killalea Coastal Investments

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Minnamurra community representatives meet on Killalea

Members of the Minnamurra Progress Association met last night with representatives of Killalea Coastal Investments (KCI) as part of an ongoing community engagement process being conducted by KCI to discuss plans for an eco resort at Killalea.

More than 15 people, including association president Graham Collison-Smith and Secretary John Le Bas, attended the meeting, which canvassed a wide range of issues relating to the proposal.

Topics of interest included the \$13.5million financial return to the Killalea Park Trust and the trust's plans for upgrading public facilities in the park with the income gained from KCI. Details of how the park would operate and the public's access to the 7% of the park area that will form the ecoresort were also the subject of questions.

The nature of the lease and the design and construction of the eco lodges was another topic of enquiry. The fact that the lodges are specially designed to touch the ground lightly and are removable at the end of the lease period was another issue canvassed as was the free movement of the public around all areas of the park after the eco resort commences operations.

A spokesman for KCI said he believed the meeting was successful from the point of view of both the association and KCI.

“An open and good natured dialogue with the association was established and we welcomed their interest and input at the meeting.

“Many people were also interested in the community survey conducted in June 2007, with a detailed briefing presented on this subject by KCI.

“The question of time-share was raised and it was pointed out that the resort would not operate on time share basis, but rather, the individual lodge lessee's would place their eco lodge into a rental pool when not occupying it.”

To date the community engagement program has included:

- Establishment of an 1800 information and feedback line for the general public manned by specialist consultants. The number is:
1800 11 00 55

- Establishment of a dedicated web site for the proposal. The address is www.killaleaecoeresort.com.au
- Publication of a wide range documents including the park plan of management, agreement to lease and concept plans on the NSW government web site for state parks. The address is www.lands.nsw.gov.au/recreation/state_parks/killalea_state_park.
- Meetings with a range community groups
- Undertaking a survey of community attitudes and its publication on Killalea Eco resort web site

The community engagement program is being undertaken with the assistance of by local specialists Twyford Consulting.

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