

Newsletter.....December, 2018

2018 finally saw off the decade long saga of the Gillion Pty. Ltd. (Power Parade) commercial water extraction case, thus ending its passage through three separate court processes. Council has applied for costs and this is scheduled to be heard in court in March.

Meanwhile, there have been changes in Council. Managers, Tony Magner, Patrick Murphy and CEO Kelly Stigworthy have left. Town planner Scott Turner has also left. There is to be restructuring with four general managers, not necessarily at the old pay scales. Four pillars will be focusing on People, Customers, Delivery and Assurance.

The all important Draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme was opened for public comment in October, with closing date for submissions, 14th December.

This Planning Scheme was developed differently from the three which preceded it. The Planning Schemes of 1983 and 1997 both started from the ground up, i.e., formulation of policies from responses from very broad questionnaires sent to all households on the mountain. The 1997 Development Control Plan was easy to read. One could easily form a vision of the preferred landscape of the mountain, social and environmental, whilst identifying in the body of the text the means by which all the sections strived to achieve this.

As a State wide government directive, the 2007 Planning Scheme was supposed to be a re-write of the 1997 Scheme, but in a preferred format and with few changes. What was hatched was a document so complex that lawyers & experts we have encountered all agree that it is a nightmare to navigate.

Into this 2007 Plan crept Secondary Housing.

The Draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme before us now has been put together from the State down. It is estimated that about 75% of its content represents requirements by the State Government. Within a splendid thought bubble of how to accommodate infill for the coming hordes invading SEQ, we have been lumped with a further unwanted and potentially destructive category, Dual Occupancy.

So now, opportunities for Dual Occupancy, Secondary Housing and further subdivision all open the door for an increase of thousands in the permanent population of the mountain (currently approx. 7,500). Once embedded in the system, the resultant increase may be spread over time, but the eventual loss of a highly valued asset of SEQ will not be viewed kindly by future residents or even governmental departments. And with a much more urbanized character, Tamborine Mountain will certainly lose its appeal to large scale potential visitors.

Needless to say a more urbanized mountain will have dire effects on our unique environment, estimated to contain up to 80% of the flora & fauna found in the Gold Coast region. Then there is the problem of water supply and wastewater disposal. Many of our roads are narrow, some not even wide enough for two way traffic and the mountain is

accessed by four steep, winding, dangerous roads - hardly suitable for a large population.

The loss of a rare national gem is a tragedy in the making. We wait to see if submissions can avert a potential disaster. *TMPA submission is attached.*

Modified Monash Model – affecting the mountain’s health and other services.

The pro forma in *Tamborine Times*, 13/12, was welcomed by many people. The MMM is a geographical classification for area services and funding. On the map used by the Federal Government, Tamborine Mountain is seen to be right next to a very large city. For the boffins in the nation’s capital, and far away from our small speck on earth, no doubt a view was formed that this is a more urban area, or has easy access to city facilities, thus obviating extending rural subsidies here.

As pointed out in the pro forma, we have no public transport services, access is by narrow dangerous roads, and the nearest hospital is 40 km away.

The MMM model was put together in 2014, but more recently, the Federal Minister for Health, Mr. Hunt, stated that a review of the MMM will be updated in 2018 at which time consideration would be given to areas in which there is dispute about the current classification.

As no doubt considerations will take some time, it is not too late to let the Ministers know about our situation. *Pro Forma attached.*

TMPA Saturday/Sunday afternoon sessions planned for 2019

Hilary will be assembling a series of entertaining afternoons early in the New Year. The wide range of topics presented this year were well attended and we look forward to what is coming up next year.

Meanwhile have a happy & safe Christmas & New Year, and please be careful on the roads.

Jeanette on behalf of TMPA

