

Newsletter – 1st February, 2015

Welcome back everyone to a new year and hopefully one that brings some good results for the ever continuing resident struggles to maintain a quality lifestyle here on the mountain. Two issues have dominated activities in the past festive season months.

The mountain's water issues

Councillor Nigel has issued a report on the current situation here.....

"Commercial water extraction can be broken into two areas - extraction to take off the mountain for commercial bottling and extraction for local supplies by the Mountain's two deliverers.

The former uses the large tankers which we see daily coming up and going down the mountain roads and the latter uses the small tankers. All commercial water extractors are required to have an approval and normally there are conditions attached to that approval.

For some time, I have been looking into the commercial water extraction business on the Mountain and I am now able to provide this update. I can advise that all extractors, currently operating, have an approval issued by the former Beaudesert Shire Council and most have conditions attached.

It is the role of Council to monitor the compliance of businesses in the Scenic Rim and the water extraction businesses are no exception. If any business is found not to be complying with their approval then compliance action will be taken.

Since all water extractors have approvals, the question to be asked is "are they complying with their approvals"? Council has been monitoring the water extractors but I am not at liberty to discuss their results.

However, community monitoring of the tankers would suggest that there are more tankers moving water off the mountain than is allowable by the approvals. I have stated that Council has an obligation to monitor compliance and take action when non compliance is noted. Again, I am not at liberty to discuss any compliance action being taken but I am confident that Council will enforce the conditions of approvals. That compliance action needs to be timely and forceful.

It is right that the community should know what is happening in the water extraction business and I am asking the water extractors to publish what approvals and conditions they have. I think that this transparency will be for the good of the businesses involved and the community.

As far as general truck movement up and off the Mountain is concerned, DTMR have completed their report and Council is receiving it on Wednesday 4 February. I have questioned when the community will be consulted and I have just received a response from the Minister's office and it states "Please be assured that TMR is committed to consulting with key community and industry stakeholders on this issue. TMR's proposed actions will be discussed at this meeting, i.e. Wednesday 4 February".

So, in summary, water extractors have approvals and so movement of water tankers will continue. The issue is compliance with conditions and it is the responsibility of Council to take timely and forceful action if they have the evidence that conditions are not being complied with. I will be keeping an eye on these actions."
(Nigel Waistell)

It is to be hoped that Council will at last be able to contain the ever increasing commercial water extraction industry. This has been allowed to grow unchecked since inexplicable permissions were granted to some (during the old Beaudesert Shire Council days) with Minor Utility Permits for commercial size water extraction.

During November, to establish an idea of tanker numbers using the mountain access roads, a band of intrepid residents held a 24/7 watch for one week. Eighty seven tankers were counted suggesting water extraction is exceeding permitted limits. This information has been conveyed to Council.

The best that can happen now is that Council checks what is happening & brings water extraction back to what has actually been permitted.

The report from Main Roads regarding tanker usage on state controlled mountain roads for which we have been waiting several years will be interesting. This department does not have a good record for solving the mountain's problems. Whilst the report has been completed & is being presented to Council on 4th February, it was not compiled with any input from the community that we know of. Explanations & discussions afterwards may be too late for a satisfactory outcome for residents. Bearing in mind the nearly six month period when TMPA and others were alerting Main Roads & the Minister that there were discrepancies with court directions for road works at North Tamborine and receiving notification from the then Minister that "consultation was taking place" (it wasn't), one wonders just how this new episode will pan out.

Mt. Tamborine Camping & Activities Pty. Ltd.

The Guanaba Action Group has continued to be very active. Wide usage of the internet, the monitoring of the flow of information to Council, submissions and regular meetings have been some of the main efforts expended to counter this inappropriate development application.

The current update from this group is as follows.....

"Hi everyone

1. Community Buy is still framing the scope so it will be March TMPA not Feb. At Feb the water issues will be discussed, all are still welcome
2. I hope you are enjoying Facebook, twitter and instagram. Feel free to make comments
3. Traffic report - was submitted by Ian and is up on Council's web site if you would like to read it. It has also gone to SARA (the govt agency). We know that the planners were reading it as Council was called to see why it was not on the web site yet (just delayed) and the planner was reading it at the time. He commented that a lot of work went into it and that the pictures were good. This could just be pleasantries - but he was reading it.

I was recently asked do we still want info on accidents. Sure, it won't be used in this report but you never know how we will be able to use it.

To see the report click on <http://daponline.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/Common/Common/Terms.aspx> accept the terms and conditions, click on applications and search for MCB14/053 and the select documents

4. There are some other submissions as well - awesome
- 14/1 Comments E Pereira - awesome job and well worth a read, points out noise issues and a little bit of photo shopping

-21/1 Errors and Omissions in Property Vegetation Plan and implications by L Sandiford - this one is amazing, it points out how all the reports are using different elevation contours and the impacts on the report's credibility. It also points out a small issue with a satellite photo claiming to be from 2013 but appears to be about a decade earlier - less houses.

- I have heard more are on the way

It is probably a good time to mention that not all of these have been done by or even suggested by the committee. Save Guanaba has always been different groups of people working together in a common goal, we may choose to do things differently but we all want the same outcome. The committee is a sub committee of TMPA and people were asked if they would like to join the sub committee, just because they did not does not mean they are any less committed, as demonstrated by the number of letters of opposition to the proposal. So do not feel you can't do something just because you are not a member of TMPA or on the committee. Absolutely you can. You can do it yourself, with your friends, ask this group for help or ask the committee. All are good.

5. Response to TJ Kelly Response to community concerns. This has been drafted, yeah. If we end up needing someone to submit it, different names are good, does anyone want to volunteer? There was talk of several signatures but the issue is getting everyone to agree on every word. Thanks to the five people who provided input after Basia's initial input - and of course, thanks to Basia. We really appreciated the heads up on discussions with Council officers.

6. 27/1 a response from Eldon Bottcher went on the web site. I had some concerns with it and as I can't ring Council myself (work constraints), got a committee member to do it. My concerns were:

a. The Change description page (page 2 of the submission) refers to draft Council conditions. -that's

not good

b. Eldon Blottcher got cranky in their letter.

The response was - No, council has not done and will not do draft conditions for discussion with the developer. Council is still not satisfied with the Bushfire Management Report and has sent Eldon off to try again! - note this is all paraphrased.

Anyway, I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful weather, between the rain and the frogs singing and now the sunshine and the birds and butterflies being everywhere, it is a lovely time to live here. Lets all hope that the 500 acres remains a refuge for a flora and fauna. Let's make
#conserverationthenewprogress

cheers

Rosie

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- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/saveguanaba> (the name is @SaveGuanaba).
- Instagram: http://instagram.com/save_guanaba
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Guanaba/980165862000286?fref=ts> “

So far so good. A huge amount of detailed sound information to reject this application has been produced. The big question is what Council will make of it all. So as not to frighten the horses, TMPA as an organization has been keeping a low profile. It has never been explained just what misinformation about TMPA activities has been circulated in some quarters of Council, or more to the point, why. Feedback over the years since amalgamation has confirmed this.

Interestingly, earlier Council staff found they could easily knock off inappropriate and unpopular development applications simply by engaging and running in tandem with the community. Sounds so simple.

Community Consultations

Two community consultations sessions for the development of the new shire Plan were held in November. These extra sessions have been added to the original programme to document specific qualities valued by residents of individual communities. As there will not be a special Tamborine Mountain section as in the current Plan, it was important for residents to let the consultant planners know just what it is they value in this area.

People attending these meetings have reported that preserving our village ambience, providing for an ageing population, strictly adhering to residential regulations and limiting rural subdivisions to 5 acre lots were some of the recommendations. Also, with regard to the environment, the Willmott and Chenoweth reports should be used as guidelines, and green corridors should be sacrosanct. No need was seen for any industrial area and the old DCP regulations should be a general guide. The activity centres of Eagle Heights, Main Street and the St. Bernards were seen to be sufficient for the mountain's needs.

Let's hope the first draft of the Plan does not produce any unwelcome surprises.

Some twenty odd years ago I found that by attending TMPA meetings you found out all sorts of interesting stuff going on in our area. TMPA (a registered Community Organization) holds monthly meetings which are open to everyone. The next meeting is Tuesday, 3rd February, 7.30 pm at the Creative Arts Centre, Wongawallan Road, Eagle Heights.

Jeanette

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www.tamborinemountainprogressassociation.com

also

www.scenicrateratepayersassoc.org.au/TMPA