

Newsletter – April, 2015

Gillion Pty. Ltd. (Power Parade) – commercial water extraction

It will possibly be end of May before this Development Application comes up to its final stage in Council.

The pro forma compiled by the water committee with input from a town planner and a lawyer was letter box dropped across the whole mountain. Included was a colour information sheet regarding our aquifer.

A week or so ago I received a 9 page intimidatory email and also a letter from Gillion's lawyers challenging some statements I sent around in an email plus three attachments on 13th March. Apparently spooked by the approx. 1,200 submissions received in the gazettal stage of the Gillion re-submission, it seems there is an attempt to discredit some, if not all, of submitter's objections and also to limit public response.

Given that the email was sent to TMPA members, the Bateke Road group and some others, many of whom stood as co-respondents in the two water cases in court, it would appear that someone flicked the whole bundle to a friend/acquaintance not readily apparent as having a connection with the commercial water extraction industry up here. The bundle, including my email address found its way to Mrs. Gill who hasn't lived on the mountain since the beginning of the year.

Would you all please remove people's email addresses from emails being forwarded to others.

Further, both local papers have received intimidatory correspondence from Gillion's lawyers – the Tamborine Times during the previous stage (hence nothing about water this time), and the Tamb. Mt. News with two lots this time. These are two small local businesses working hard to make ends meet.

Secretary Jennifer Peat received similar correspondence.

Clearly, the submitter is seeking to remove opposition to her application, but with water being a prominent concern here for nearly two decades, and with the mountain's well oiled grapevine, Mrs. Gill may well have chosen the wrong path.

Mayor Brent's letter – Tamb. Times, & emails to some individuals

A variety of responses have been received mainly pointing out that instead of taking a neutral position, much of the article appears to be stating reasons why the Gillion submission may be approved. (Article attached)

The current Gillion submission rests mainly on two areas – planning and economic need.

In the Mayor's article, the planning consideration is lost amongst secondary statements and general fill.

Three paragraphs refer to a study of tanker movements on our mountain roads by the Dept. of Main Roads. They are not taking any action. This department earlier confirmed the wholly unsatisfactory road work jumble at the mountain's foremost traffic node at North Tamborine, was unimpressed by stated safety concerns during the earlier Power Parade court case and at the time declared the Oxenford Road was "more safe" than the Tamborine Mountain Road.

As far as the Gillion Power Parade appeal was concerned, DTMR'S input was secondary to the over riding decision by the judge who denied the appeal mainly on planning grounds.

A further three paragraphs in the article state that management of underground water resources is the responsibility of the State. The article states that Council has no authority to manage or control the volume of water extracted for commercial use. This is despite resident complaints and a study done by a group of all tanker movements for a seven day period which strongly suggests water taken off the mountain exceeds the

volumes and tanker movements permitted in Council's conditions. It is being noted that checking for compliance by Council is taking a really long time.

One resident complained that if he did something outside regulations, "they'd be on to him like a flash".

Without looking very hard, letters to the local papers complaining about water being taken off the mountain for commercial purposes are on file back at least to 2002.

The Mayor's article has two paragraphs which refer to whether the development application is consistent with the planning scheme. As the earlier Gillion appeal was rejected mainly on planning grounds, this small section should really be what it is all about.

The Mayor is playing down the scope Council has to act.

Tamborine Mountain is not classified as a protected groundwater area. It should be.

Given the reliance on tank water and bore water for households and gardens, if the Mayor had the interests of the community as a priority, then he should have been leading Council to address this matter long ago. Until now such an issue and strategic opportunity had not dawned on him.

We understand that the Minister for Natural Resources has now been invited by Council to visit the area to gain some understanding of the problem. TMPA's letter to the new Minister outlining our water problems was sent 3rd March, 2015..

Most residents do not want reticulated water. This is the threshold which helps retain our semi-rural, non-urban lifestyle. But something needs to be done to protect the water supply that we have.

Development Application for extended mining at Tamborine

This is an old development application which seeks a very large increase from minor extractive activities at a turf farm at Yore Road and Waterford-Tamborine Road, Tamborine Village. It involves the removal of topsoil and sand from the site and a media article expects trucks to leave the grounds every four minutes.

The site backs onto the Albert River. Mining here does not seem like a good idea.

For anyone who travels the Waterford-Tamborine Road, any significant increase in large truck movements on this often narrow road is of concern.

Scenic Rim Shire, with already much land reserved for mining (K R A's), will slowly acquire a dusty, bare earth appearance, rather than the scenic, semi-rural shire it promotes.

Objections can be lodged with Customer Service Centre at the Library, or by email to mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au or post to Scenic Rim Regional Council, P.O. Box 25, Beaudesert, Q 4285.

Guanaba sports D A on T M 's eastern slopes

The Council committee meeting scheduled for next Tuesday has been postponed till Tuesday, 19th May. The Guanaba group has continued to be busy monitoring and discussing activities. See saveguanaba@gmail.com

Jeanette

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www.tamborinemountainprogressassociation.com
also
www.scenicrimratepayersassoc.org.au/TMPA