

Newsletter.....August, 2016

Guanaba Experience development

This issue is slowly grinding on. For anyone who has forgotten, TMPA is appealing in the Planning & Environment Court Council's approval of this 500 acre extreme sports/entertainment park in Guanaba Gorge. Approval was given in May 2015. TMPA lodged the Appeal in September 2015 following receipt of six strong experts' reports.

Preliminary court sessions commenced in December. When the developer failed to lodge required documents, the judge imposed a cost penalty which still has not been resolved.

Prior to further proceedings, the developer self referred his development application to the Federal Department of Environment (EPBC). To complicate matters we now have three versions of this application. The court is required to consider only the original version submitted to Council.

The Federal Dept required the developer to compile further reports. Court sessions were postponed indefinitely.

At a hearing in April, 2016, the court appeal was adjourned to mid September.

According to Federal Dept. of Environment procedure, the developer had to advertise & open for comment his very lengthy biodiversity report. Accordingly, in July in response to our emails, 54 submissions were made by 68 people. There were many lengthy and well researched ones and the people who put in simpler statements helped convey the message of broad community concern. *(TMPA submission attached)*

We have been compiling a **petition**, listing as many names as possible, to send to the Minister for the Environment (Fed.) asking him to reject this development to protect ecological communities and species of national significance. An outright refusal is uncommon but as this is such a significant site we have a very good case.

We are collecting signatures up to the end of the month, so your assistance, if you have not already given it, would be valuable. *(A petition form, with full text of petition is attached.)* Please print full name, followed by your signature (per line). Names and signatures must be originals. It doesn't matter how many signatures are on the petition page (one or many). These can be dropped off in the TMPA box outside Travelling Places, North Tamborine (outside vege shop) or posted to P.O. Box 106 North Tamborine, 4272.

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

Nothing new here. A joint experts' report has been received (148 pages) as has a second Gillion Economics Report (77 pages).

Currently a timetable for a mediation session is being fixed. This is scheduled for mid September.

Other water issues

The SRRC v Alan Robert cases in the Planning & Environment Court are moving at a slow pace. This is the commercial water extraction site on the corner of Holt Road and Hartley Road. A new affidavit was lodged by the SRRC compliance officer detailing exactly how/when/where the surveillance camera operated. There is an alleged inconsistency with the operating conditions set for the site.

Tamborine Mountain's aquifer

Discussions with the Department of Natural Resources which started early in 2015 are still proceeding. Numerous meetings with departmental representatives outlaid detailed data, graphics and community concerns. Communications have been made by Cr. Nigel as well as Mayor Greg. A QUT professor has come on board as well as TMPA's water expert from previous cases (in a private capacity). Several skilled residents have made strenuous efforts. A resident watch late 2015 found 87 tanker loads being shipped off the mountain in the 24/7 week of surveying. One commercial extraction bore is sunk down 250 metres – centre of the mountain & ancient water.

And guess what.....no progress whatsoever has been made.

But we keep trying. We need to start collecting scientific data to aim at a commercial water management programme for the mountain. The QUT group is willing to help here and we may look to getting grants for funding.

Planning legislation

The draft Local Area Planning Scheme should be coming out for public viewing before too long. In an uncharacteristic move, this draft was rushed off by the previous Council even before the State Government had finalized its local government laws. Minimum public input occurred. Consequently we need to look at the Draft very carefully. Mayor Greg is adamant that changes can be made.

At State level, the South East Queensland Regional Plan is under review and as this overrides local planning schemes where there is an inconsistency, this also requires careful scrutiny.

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) has been conducting seminars to assist communities to understand and participate in the planning law reform process. Further seminars are being conducted this month to provide an outline of the new legislation and its supporting documents.

Close checking needs to be made when the draft SEQ Regional Plan comes out. Mayor Greg has indicated that it will not be too late to suggest changes. There are laws for the whole shire which need fine tuning and hopefully the opportunity will not be missed.

Tourist cabins, Alpine Tce (The Escarpment)

A development application has been submitted to extend the facility into a second block. Further tourist cabins and a function facility are being proposed. The Escarpment cabins are at the entrance of the heavily tree lined Alpine Terrace at the northern side of St. Bernards school.

The application is Impact Inconsistent has therefore been open for public comment. Concerns regarding insufficient detail in the plan sketches, siting of the cabins, size of the function facility and effluent disposal not sufficiently dealt with prompted TMPA to lodge an objection to the D A as it stands. (*Submission attached*)

Giant fig tree under threat

The Education Department has indicated it would like to remove this tree. It stands majestically in the corner of the markets site, Long Road, opposite the primary school. It looks like it has been there a very long time.

The allotment where the markets are held, together with the land the primary school stands on were donated by Sydney Curtis, well known pioneer of Tamborine Mountain. Councillor Curtis, was responsible for the gazettal of Witches Falls National Park – the first in Queensland – in 1908. It is the second oldest in Australia.

Eve Curtis has suggested it would be more appropriate to place a plaque at the tree indicating the huge input Sydney Curtis & other pioneers made to establish an area, rich in its environment, which is quite unique.

Councillor/Mayoral conduct complaints review

An independent panel is reviewing how the system for managing conduct of local government councillors can be improved. Although we could have done with this some time ago, you might consider reading the documents available in the link below and making a comment.

<https://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/consultation/3115/view.html>

TMPA AGM

TMPA will hold its AGM on 6th September. All Management Committee positions will be vacated and all positions are open for nomination. The meeting is to be held the usual time – 7.30 pm at the Historical Association rooms in the Creative Arts Centre on Wongawallan Road.

Jeanette