

Newsletter, July, 2013

Power Pde (Gillion) ongoing court proceedings.....Whilst Gillion's appeal in the Planning and Environment court was refused, the matter is still on-going as Gillion has filed an appeal against this judgment in the Supreme Court.

An explanatory article by Roly Lindenmayer was submitted for publication by the Tamborine Times, but as the paper was threatened with legal action if it published anything relating to the water issue, the broad community was not given up to date news of an issue to which so many had responded. The article is attached.

On legal advice and with good grounds, several residents together with TMPA have registered a cross Appeal with the court, with a view to counteracting possible gain to Gillion in the proceedings. Next follows a required step by step lead up to the actual court session. This will probably take many months.

Meanwhile the results of the water Art Union (not able to be published in the Tamborine Times) did appear in the T.M. News. This paper apparently was not subject to the same restrictions as the Times as it had not carried a Letter to the Editor which contained some incorrect information. Result of the Art Union is..... The Kia car - won by Nigel Waistell ; Second prize - Ian Tait ; Third - Mr. & Mrs. Stojanovic

Bateke Rd industrial water extraction Development Application.....In view of the continuing unresolved action taken by Gillion Pty. Ltd., water extraction at the Bateke Road site has continued, particularly as Pure Mountain Pty. Ltd. has submitted a Development Application to Council. No Order regarding conditions of operation by Mountain Water has been made by Council yet as it is waiting for further outcome from the Gillion case.

Scenic Rim Planning Scheme..... On 17th July, representatives of six organizations and others met to formulate input into the upgrading of the shire's planning scheme in relation to Tamborine Mountain. A response which was agreed to by all parties was submitted to Council on Friday, 26th July.

The Broad Aim identified in the 1997 Development Control Plan remains valid. This is.....

"The Broad Aim is to ensure that land use and development is ecologically sustainable and their ongoing management are of a form and character that is consistent with the natural environment qualities, semi-rural character and amenity and resource management requirements of land within the Tamborine Mountain area."

Other factors identified as relevant to future management include.....

The mountain is exposed to conflicting priorities for the protection of its inherent character and incompatible commercial development.

The resident population has had long term involvement to an unusual degree in the development of management strategies.

Recognition of regional diversity is needed by maintaining the Tamborine Mountain Zone with its three distinct village areas, rural areas and natural areas

Mount Tamborine Village Area to be recognized as considerably different to the two other Village Areas due to the larger rural residential lot size and the resultant lower densities and different range of land uses. Recognition is needed that the Mountain is very close to its resident and visitor capacity.

Re-establishment of a Minor Public Utility (in relation to sale of water from bores) and re-assessment of Commercial Water Extraction.

Development to have its own sustaining water catchment & storage facilities

Protection of the ground water aquifers

Sunset clauses for all development with a recommendation of two years

Other considerations to be taken include the sensitive areas.....*National Parks and State Forests, Significant vegetation, Heritage Areas, Escarpment Wildlife Corridors, Conservation Areas.*

The next step is for Council to issue Direction Papers, and after that come the Community Workshops. Residents can have input along the way and relevant notices should be published by Council. Information will probably be displayed on Council's website, and residents should check the information that is being developed.

Key Resource Areas.....These are the very large areas of Scenic Rim to be reserved for mining and or quarrying in the draft State Planning Policy. The shire has drawn a great many residents who value the environment and a semi-rural lifestyle, so it was no surprise that over 4,000 residents confirmed these values in the draft Scenic Rim Community Plan. The potential impact of the KRA's on desired lifestyles is being researched and activities are being orchestrated by the Quarry Action Group.

At the Council meeting of 25th June, a QAG representative presented several questions..... "The SRRC has strongly and publicly opposed mining as an acceptable industry for the Scenic Rim including a formal submission to the State Government. As both open cut coal mines and quarries are great big holes in the ground regulated by the same operational and safety requirements, what difference does the council see between the two? Are not both mines? Is not the impact on the landscape, environment, adjacent land owners and the community the same?"

Answer (Mayor)..."The two are different. It was a matter of perspective." Cr. McInnes (Boonah) supported the view the two were different. He added that coal was exported and that without more quarries close to future need "we would all be driving around on dirt roads again".

The Mayor stated he did not have a conflict of interest in one of the proposed KRA's. This is a very much enlarged version of an earlier Development Application to substantially increase the capacity of the Erin View quarry. Against a large public outcry, Council rejected the earlier application in which Mayor Brent declared a conflict of interest due to the quarry owner's mayoral campaign financial support. The site title has not changed.

Mundoolun mine, off the end of Beacon Road, is already a declared Key Resource Area.

Regarding the Courier Mail article "Bunny bites into a mouthful of trouble" (20/7), some concern has been raised as to Mayor Brent's position as director of Bunny Bites which has gone into voluntary administration. As controlling powerhouse of a very large budgeted regional council, Mayor Brent is being critically viewed by some residents. Mayor Brent is confident everything has been properly managed. SRRC has refused to comment.

Scenic Rim Rate Payers Association is holding its AGM on Monday, 29th July, at the Beaudesert Golf Club, 135 Kerry Road, Beaudesert at 7 pm. Everyone welcome. Guest speaker is Scott Buchholz, MP.

The next general meeting of TMPA is Tuesday, 6th August in the Historical Society's rooms, Creative Arts Centre, Wongawallan Rd., Eagle Heights, at 7.30 pm.

Jeanette Lockey,
Presodent, TMPA.