

Topic: Barnwell Rd / KUR-World

KRPG Code: BARN361834

EPBC Ref: 2016/7710

Date: 15 June 2016



Purpose: To review the KUR-World Master Plan in relation to Kuranda residents and its environmental impacts on our region, in lieu of the absent public consultation process

Submission to: EPBC Referral Unit Dept of Environment Canberra

Copies to: Kuranda Region Planning Group, Mareeba Shire Council, Reeve and Ocean Pty Ltd, Urban Sync, Cairns Post, Kuranda Paper, ABC Radio

Online: www.kurandaregion.org/kur-world

We believe that the KUR- world proposed satellite suburb needs to be a controlled action under the EPBC act for the following reasons:

Environmental

Water Quality and Negative Impact of Sedimentation on Threatened Species and World Heritage Areas

- Negative impact on EPBC endangered frog *Litoria Myola* through sedimentation of Owen's Creek, due to illegal construction of dam in 2015 on an unnamed tributary of this creek without state approval- see video. This led to destruction of Myola frog *L. Myola's* habitat ref. Hoskins, April 2016- see attachment.
- Through sedimentation of Warril Creek due to construction of site access, there was also more negative impact on the EPBC threatened species *L. Myola's* habitat. Warril Creek has also been identified as potential habitat for *Litoria dayi* (EPBC Endangered) ref.Hoskins , April 2016.- see attachment
- The above described high sediment load events flowed through the above creeks to the Barron River and ended up in The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, adding to the stress experienced by the in many parts dying reef. More extreme sedimentation events can be expected if the project goes ahead.

Negative Impacts on Endangered Species due to Increased Traffic Movements

- Due to the large size of this project- 373 residential lots , 200 villas and 270 bed resort with an average of 550 day visitors and 1000 overnight guests plus staff movements (the current population of Myola plus Kuranda village is only 2387 - ref. ABS Regional Population of Growth Australia 2014-15 edition), this project would greatly increase traffic movements. As road kill is one of the greatest causes of fatality in Southern cassowaries, this would have the potential to maim and kill the already threatened population most likely to extinction.¹
- For the reasons detailed above, the increased traffic is likely to lead to isolated populations of Southern cassowary and so weaken the genetic viability of the species.
- The Kuranda Range road crosses the last remaining Wet Tropics World Heritage corridor below the Barron Falls. Increased traffic (due to the population increasing by at least a third) is likely to lead to both more road kill of the endangered Southern cassowary and also increased fragmentation of populations.
- Sightings of the Southern cassowary have been recorded in the vicinity of the site in the last 5 years in multiple areas including: on the Barron river corridor, near the district school, crossing the Myola road near Christensen road heading towards the development and on Kingfisher Drive which adjoins the development site. (ref. Pers

comm. Cathy Retter Kuranda, Kuranda EnviroCare)

- Fragmentation of the Myola/Kuranda EnviroLink wildlife corridor would be likely to occur due to increased traffic movement and fencing.

Effect of Domestic Animals on Endangered Species

- There would be a likely increase in domestic dogs and cats which are able to travel large distances (dogs often in packs) and are already an uncontrolled major threat to endangered species such as the Southern cassowary and *L. Myola* (cats). Even if a condition was put on of no cats and dogs, there is no effective mechanism to enforce this in our area. Has already been attempted without success.

Cultural Heritage Values

- No known assessment has been made to date.

Infrastructure

- Mains water, sewerage, electricity and road infrastructure is required for the project – at the taxpayer/ratepayer's expense?
- Existing water supply already under pressure. Extra 1000 residents and 1000 daily visitors will require infrastructure – at the taxpayer/ratepayer's expense?
- Cairns City Council spent \$545,000 on consultants to assess the EIS Aquis never even completed. The amount of money MSC will have to spend on assessing the implications of this development is formidable - water, sewerage, transport, power etc. - it is effectively a whole new satellite suburb of Cairns.
- If new transport infrastructure is required – at the taxpayer's expense?

Integrated resort / Tourism

The term **integrated resort** (IR) is used to describe Singapore's major **resort** properties, which feature gaming-**integrated** hotels, together with convention facilities, entertainment shows, theme parks, luxury retail and fine dining. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_resort

- Potential to detract from existing tourism operations including: Skyrail, Kuranda Train, Rainforestation, Butterfly Sanctuary, other major attractions, our stallholders and all our markets, if the plan is to make a duplicate "KUR-World village" environment as per the documentation.
- It is possible the 'integrated' and 'eco-resort' language is being used to enable the residential subdivision?
- Is there going to be a 'gaming' component introduced at some point in the future?
- KUR-World is more suited to the Gold Coast
- Flashy opulence and clearing Wet Tropics World Heritage Recovering Rainforest for this "eco"-resort and urban residential subdivision is at odds with the values of this land.

Our 'Elected Representatives' have failed, betrayed and sold us out

- Mareeba Shire Council declared no knowledge of the development. Local residents found out in the Cairns Post article dated 8 June 2016 even though the EPBC Referral document was published 30 May 2016.
- Pages 1-16 that form the EPBC Referral are dated August 2015.
- Recovering Rainforest has continued to be cleared for over 12 months without proper process (i.e. an approved plan) and under the guise of 'returning the property to cattle grazing'. Ken Lee may like cows – it's true – that's quite a large herd he's planning to run with the hectares he has cleared in the time since purchase.
- The Works application was put into council retrospectively as the dam earthworks had already been completed.