

## KUR-World Community Factsheet

### August 2016

## What is KUR-World?

KUR-World is an eco-tourism resort proposal planned for land between Warrill Drive and Barnwell Road, Myola area. The owner of the land is a Chinese businessman, Mr. Ken Lee, who purchased a large family owned property in January 2014.

## Key Facts

- The land is 626ha;
- proposed project value \$650million;
- proposed population, approx. 4,000 people (current broader Kuranda region population is 4,000)

## Key Features of proposed development:

- 323 residential lots of approximately 600m<sup>2</sup>
- 50 residential lots ranging in size from 600m<sup>2</sup> to 2,000m<sup>2</sup>.
- 500 students on a campus
- 270 room hotel
- 200 double storey houses
- 300 bed education centre
- 60 bed health spa
- An 18 hole resort golf course
- 1,500m<sup>2</sup> shopping centre , day spa & convention centre with capacity for 500 people
- Adventure park with zip lines

## Where is KUR-World?

At the end of Barnwell Rd, Myola a ten minute drive out of Kuranda village on a property of twelve rural titles (646 hectares).

## What's been happening on and related to this property?

- Mareeba Shire Council has provided a post-construction approval (with conditions) for an illegally constructed dam.
- This eco-tourism resort proposal is currently being considered by the Qld. State Government.
  - While we wait for their consideration, the project continues with illegal clearing and earthworks, building and roadworks.
  - The illegally constructed dam continues to leach sediment into nearby creeks. There is no engineering for this dam which covers 3 ½ acres. It is sub-standard.
  - Our critically endangered frog, *Litoria myola*, has had essential habitat illegally removed. This triggers federal government interests via EPBC Act, as does any clearing of essential cassowary habitat.
  - People living on Owen and Warrill Creeks have had their water supply muddied with sediment runoff.

# Our concerns

## **Damaging to local Businesses and Jobs**

- The proposal plans to build 'another village' at Myola. This will likely divert business, community, tourists and services from our Village in the Rainforest to KUR-World. No extras, just a share of what we have now. How will our Shire Council react to these new demands?
- For a development this size, it would be likely that much of the construction work would go to larger contractors, unlikely to be local, likely to be international. Kur-World operation is likely to require Mandarin speakers for the most part, so only menial local jobs likely.
- This whole project may become a residential subdivision (by default) either during the approval process or after the project fails as a tourism/accommodation project and the owner looks for alternatives. Or the tourism may never get off the ground.
  - This happened to the Japanese residential at Paradise Palms at Kewarra Beach.
  - This happened to Port Hinchinbrook resort which promised a similar resort style.

## **Damaging to our Community and Cultural Heritage**

KUR-WORLD could change the quality of life in our community forever. The proposal plans to double the current population of the broader Kuranda area. Where will the extra infrastructure come from? Who will pay for...

- Water supply demands
- Electricity supply demands
- Ambulance and fire services
- School capacities
- Kuranda Range congestion. There will be no additional expenditure on the range.
- Internet capacity demands

To our knowledge, no Traditional Owners have been consulted and no survey done for cultural artefacts and sacred sites.

## **Destruction of our Environment and its Wildlife**

The developer has promised jobs with sensitivity to our social and natural environment. We can have both. So far we have only promises of jobs, but real environmental damage and no social or community consultation. (Refer to Initial Advice Statement: <http://eisdocs.dsdip.qld.gov.au/KUR-World%20Integrated%20Eco-resort/IAS/kur-world-ias.pdf>)

KUR-World – WRONG WAY 2 Social sustainability  
KUR-World – WRONG WAY 2 Environmental sustainability  
KUR-World – WRONG WAY 2 Economic sustainability

## **What to do now?**

- Spread the word, tell your friends and post to your networks.
- Keep coming to meetings... we need your support.
- Keep coming to meetings... we will keep you informed.
- Like our Facebook page
- Sign up for updates on the website: [www.kurandaregion.org](http://www.kurandaregion.org)
- Tell us if you can help: Photocopying; letter drops; expertise.
- Sign a postcard
- Fill out a resident's survey

**KUR-World - No Thank You**