

Petition to clean up KUR-World dam failure in Owen Creek catchment before the sediment load DESTROYS MORE endangered Kuranda Tree Frog habitat.

PETITION SUBMISSION: 21 November 2017

PETITION ROWS: 108 Kuranda Region Residents & Ratepayers

PETITION RAW DATA: sent to Mareeba Shire Council .XLS 21 November 2017

WEBPAGE: <http://kurandaregion.org/kur-alert-armchair-direct-action/>

RESIDENT / RATEPAYER COMMENTS

--

Hope this national disaster is addressed immediately.

--

"Ken Lee has shown blatant disregard for the environment. Most people of Kuranda completely condemn this foul pretentious plan that is being sneakily developed. The local council seems to be in cahoots with this vandal. The Kuranda voters would view action taken by environment ministers AGAINST Ken Lee as a decent job done and a Duty of Care for Kuranda fulfilled .Thankyou.

--

This should never have been given the go ahead in the first place. For Ken lee to think that we honestly believe him when he says he is putting in and Environmental centre, after the blatant destruction he has already done, it's a joke. This whole endeavour smacks of greed .

--

The way this development has been handled is atrocious, and it should be stopped immediately! Just because a developer has the funds to do something (and to line pockets of politicians) doesn't mean he should be given carte blanche.

--

When ordinary citizens do illegal actions they are fined and required to repair, why then are developer allowed to do such blatant illegal environment damage without consequence?

--

Environmentally inappropriate, huge stress on existing infracture and lifestyle. Concerned that project will not deliver on promises leaving community to bear costs.

--

Please stop this disastrous 'development from destroying a pristine environment, purely for the short term profit of o/s money makers.

--

Please take a common sense response, and STOP this irresponsible 'development', destroying pristine rainforest purely for overseas PROFIT!

--

I am appalled Government department office holders are “turning a blind eye” to obvious breaches is corruption. I do not accept government departments ignoring breaches. As a taxpayer and ratepayer I do not accept this behaviour from our elected officials or office bearers.

--

Please act now before the wet season really sets in.

--

I have to clean up my mess, way das Kur-World get away without

--

Fuck KurWorld.

--

Steven and Anthony you need to address the concerns of the residents of this area. This development changes from one week to the next, which implies they do not know what they are doing or they do not care about the beautiful flora and fauna of this area.

--

We need to conserve and protect our Kuranda Tree Frog habitat. Enforce regulations now to clean up the Rainforest creek behind the failed mega-dam wall.

--

Please do not ignore our sincere concerns

--

Hello is there anybody out there? Can someone please do something about this mess. Please. It's raining and there's only one direction tonnes of clay is going to go... onto more critically endangered Litoria myola habitat. What's the point of having all this legislation around endangered species if no one is going to do anything to actually protect them from a situation that we know - absolutely for sure - is going to happen. The water is running one way only.

--

This should not be left. Action is required to clean up this mess!

--

No KUR-World mega-size development, which damages our important rainforest biodiversity! Protect animals, plants, reef and rainforest forever!

--

The KUR-world development is inappropriate for Kuranda. This proves it!!

--

Dear Ministers Miles and Lynham

I write to you to support immediate remedial action being undertaken on the site of the KUR-World Development to support protection of the critically endangered Kuranda Tree Frog, Litoria Myola, and the endangered Southern Cassowary.

This project has taken law into it's own hands, flouting proper process with the wilful intention of benefitting from evading the laws set in place to protect the environment, and in turn the community. Legal proceedings should be immediately undertaken to against the developer both in order to maintain adherence to the law and also to set a standard for future developments and developers. We all need to be held accountable for our actions rather than bypass them when convenient.

I hope this will meet with you immediate support. Thank you.

--

We have a 10 acre rural block in Kuranda with a running creek, platypus, frogs, cassowaries et al 144 different wildlife species have been identified There is no way I would a. dream of destroying this vital habitat. B. Be allowed by Council, DERM or Federal Environmental agencies. to carry out the environmental destruction the KUR- world developers have actioned without severe penalties. We live in one of the very few remaining areas of Tropical Rainforest in the world. Australia is supposedly a First World Nation: it is our responsibility to protect our pristine habitat and environment. The Government needs to act.

This is totally unacceptable

--

Why hasn't this been addressed and repaired long before now? Other than the endangered fauna and flora on this site, nothing else matters much!

--

This is critical habitat for the endangered endemic Kuranda Tree Frog...we are sick of being walked over by council and developers...talk to the Threatened Species Commissioner about this

--

We don't need large-scale development on the Atherton Tablelands. Leave the environment as it is.

--

I would expect a level playing field, did someone get paid to turn a blind eye while our environment is being destroyed, by foreigners?

--

This is an unnecessary and destructive development that has drawn the ire of the wider community. It will not be a boon to tourism and will ultimately be the downfall of Kuranda as "the village in the rainforest", our drawcard.

--

As a voter and citizen of this State I remind you that you are elected to represent us, the People, NOT commercial interests nor your own interests. this is why Australians, in general, are fed up with our politicians and behaviour by Governments.

--

I share a boundary line with the proposed Kur-World development and am horrified at how they are destroying our environment. This should not be allowed to continue regardless of the amount of money being paid to the council members to push it through. We are only temporary inhabitants of our planet and I am at a loss as to understand why short term monetary gain at the expense of the future of the children and grandchildren of the perpetrators is not understood.

--

Destruction of a pristine environment on a vast scale.

--

"Why is there no action taken by your department on the breaches.

--

Is this because the perceived benefits that are dangled in front of council etc.

--

This is inexcusable on your part, do the right thing and act on the information that you are given by the very people in this community that cares about this environment."

--

Protect what we have today so as our kids have it tomorrow.

--

Sad to be a part of this community with Government department office holders "turning a blind eye" to obvious breaches is corruption. We do not accept government departments ignoring breaches. As taxpayers and ratepayers we do not accept this behaviour from our elected officials or office bearers.

No more land should be cleared! It's already way too much and we should be replanting lost forest.

--

Please act on this urgently and help protect the ecologically diverse Kuranda region. If environmental vandals are not fined nor prosecuted, it is no use having the necessary laws in place.

Completely short sighted. This proposal is designed to make money for a few to the detriment of the greater community and the planet.

--

I sincerely hope that our community can be saved from this ill-conceived development. I hope that well-credentialed professionals who have recognized the damage this could do can persuade the powers in government to see more than the short term dollars they hope it generates.

--

Please treat this matter with some urgency, the Myola rain gauge showed over 400mm rain in the last few days, thank you.

--

Thoroughly disappointed in our state government. Voters environmental concerns are ignored.

--

When you look up the Federal environmental act - under the EPBC, the State environmental act, and local environmental and planning laws it appears there have been breaches by KEN LEE and his companies, REEVER & OCEAN pty Ltd. – (3 companies registered in different places?) who have purchased large tracts of environmentally sensitive land, for a major development in the Myola Valley.

The area lies between the North and South World Heritage pinch point areas, an environmental corridor, backing onto the Formartine State Forest Reserve. This highly sensitive ecological area is host to 22 endangered species, flora and fauna, and several federally protected species that will become extinct very soon due to failed private earth and waterworks, (a dam, that was dug without approvals or permits). This has caused sedimentation out of the owned land area, of 650ha, ruining downstream ecosystems, in particular the habitat of the Kuranda Tree Frog.(myola littoria)

The plan is for 4000+ new residents to be put onto this site on 1/2 and 1/4 acre blocks, including an "eco - resort" and precinct, for shopping, golf courses and a university. (see maps)

There was no community consultation in 2014, when the purchase was made and none in 2015 prior to the project getting State and Local govt, pre - approvals and retrospective approvals, to carry out the project works without any of the appropriate permits.

An Environmental Impact Statement or EIS has only occurred after the community "found out" about it. A moratorium has been put on the project until the EIS has been completed, but work still goes on as "allowances" were made for it to continue. This is not a moratorium per se.

Local Govt representatives pass onto State government representatives who pass onto the Federal Government.(commonly known as passing the buck). I rang the EPBC who told me it was a local govt issue and that pre approvals had been made by the State Govt, and retrospective approvals had occurred for the dam works, by the local council. No one will answer any questions, directly about the development plans for the area and consistently pass onto other parties. No one will answer in writing also.

There have been no permits for any of work done or future work to be done. If you or I did this, personally, to our own properties i.e. set up a huge hotel, shops, golf course and university, without community consultation or legal avenues such as appropriate permits for it, we would be arrested and jailed/fined for breaches of Federal, State and Local Laws. However it seems Mr. Lee has slipped under the radar and expects to be let through without penalty, because of the size of the project and the monetary investment he has made. Money can't bring back our frogs, money can't bring back the environment and money shouldn't buy off politicians, to turn a blind eye, without penalty.

There has been limited or no allowances made for water sources and capacity, sewerage capacity and traffic on the Kuranda Range. No one is thinking about the 373 blocks all with families and domestic pets who will further destroy the wildlife in the area. The plan is a disaster for a protected World Heritage Area, in a 75 year old regrowth area, after clearing of Pender, Kauri, and Silky Oak, in the 1930's. The area is in recovery from that environmental disaster, and we now have another one, based on the subdivision of hundreds of blocks and a tourist development to cater for those and other visitors. The mighty dollar wins again. The environment will never recover. Kuranda goes bust.

What do we, as a community lose when this happens again. Kuranda was developed in the 1980's and 90's into a tourist town. Much was lost at that time and it is on our plate again. Why do we need another KUR- WORLD, only 12km away? The plan is wasteful and discredits our governors who are meant to look at the best results for all. This travesty is not a result, it is a conduit for Chinese money laundering, in our country.

When asked at public meetings, questions and answers, about the project, all those concerned stated that they had no crystal ball, to foresee the future, however they had already made the pre approvals for the project, with local council, with the state govt, and an application was made to the EPBC for approvals of 3 stages of the project. The local Council was asked about the breaches and there was no reply. This project throws our constitution out of its own legislation and is a breach of national laws.

Mr. Lee should be held accountable, prosecuted and jailed, for those breaches, whether he knew about it or not. They are identified below. There are consequences for breaking the laws of our country, laws made by our governors to protect the country, its environment and its' communities. This is a destructive project on all avenues, happening in a declared World Heritage Area.

Breaches of Law

Breaches past and current of federal, state and local laws have been:

- 1) QLD STATE GOVT. ACT Nature Conservation Act 1992. Part 5; Sub 2; No 89. - penalty units 3000; penalty value - \$365,700
- 2) QLD STATE GOVT. ACT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Part 3; Div 1; No.23 - penalty units - 10,000 - Penalty Value - \$1,219,000.00.
- 3) Local govt act./council SUSTAINABLE PLANNING ACT 2009. No.578 - x 4 breaches. - penalty units $1665 \times 4 = 6660$; Penalty Value - $\$202,963.50 \times 4 = \$811,854.00$
- 4) Federal Act - Breaches - EPBC ACT 1999. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Chapter 2; Part 3; Div 1; Sect 18.; Breaches X 5 : Penalty units - $50,000 \times 5 = 250,000$; Penalty Value - $\$6,095,000.50 \times 5 = \$30,475,002.00$.

TOTAL PENALTY UNITS=269,660.

TOTAL FINES=\$32,871,556 million dollars.

These are serious breaches and amount to millions of dollars in fines and are prosecutable offences with two hundred thousand penalty units from local, state and federal law . Further information on the nature of these breaches can be found in Kur- Alert Inc. presentation to Steven Tarte, embedded.

I call on the Federal , State and Local Government, of our country, to do its job and apply the appropriate penalties, to Mr. Ken Lee and his companies, for breaking our laws and not complying with our legislation, which has been put in place to protect our country, from such events taking place.