

Date: 15 May 2024

**COMPLAINT: Regarding Mareeba Shire Council's handling of my Topic**

REPLY from council

Dear Jo

Thank you for your email Tuesday last week and the further email we received yesterday. Your formal complaint has been referred to our Governance Officer and will be responded to as per the Complaints Policy.

With regard to your email from last week, yesterday was the first opportunity we have had to discuss it as a group of Councillors as we only meet every fortnight. The points you raised were noted and considered.

Following our discussion I can inform you that we intend to continue as previously indicated. This will involve the removal of the pond itself and then rearranging the large rocks at the rear of the water feature, effectively laying them down. By doing this we will be able to have a larger open space.

The reasoning for doing this is for a few reasons. Firstly, as outlined above it will create a larger open space. Secondly for safety reasons, as they currently are, standing vertically, they provide a hiding place where people can gather and undertake antisocial activities or worse. In addition as a standalone feature the rocks will be attractive for children to climb and in their present configuration the height results in a potential safety risk.

I would like to remind you that in the original concepts the proposal was to totally remove the entire feature and it was as a result of the community consultation that it was decided to keep the large rocks in the park as a feature.

Regards

Cr Angela Toppin AM  
Mayor

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My reply to council, same day

Hi Angela,

The points I have raised were not noted or considered at all.

In fact I can tell from your answers below that you haven't even read my correspondence. So the meeting you had yesterday was about how you will proceed regardless of any new information or ideas I have provided.

1. The botanical garden is a rainforest setting and does not need more "open space" with grass - grass is high maintenance. More grass will not deter Aboriginal people from using the park. More employment opportunities would work better.

2. There is no "safety" issue behind the large rocks - in my previous correspondence to you - I noted this after talking to Melissa (Heritage Markets) and Tricia (Honey House). I'm not sure what "worse" you are implying - there is no safety risk with the area behind the fountain- see photo below. Perhaps you should go and have another look and stand behind the rock wall? Melissa reports (per my previous

correspondence to you) behind the fountain has \*never been an issue for people gathering or causing safety issues - furphy. As per my previous correspondence the picnic table to the left of the fountain and down the back near the highway is a problem - not behind the fountain.

3. No one has or is climbing the vertical rock wall that is a furphy too. As I pointed out to Shellie on the phone and also in the following email to you - there will be more of a "safety" issue once the rocks are laying down. We will need a sign saying "Do not climb the rocks" - or maybe fence them off to the public to avoid liability?

The original concept was created by council \*prior to the community consultation - there has been no community consultation that dealt with other options for the fountain. Council knew going in exactly what was going to happen and the reason the rocks are being retained is because it's cheaper for council to leave them there than get a crane in to remove them. I was there.

I really don't understand why council is being so hard-headed on this? To date, there is still no good reason you have provided to demolish the vertical wall other than you don't want to change council's original plan. This is the basis of my complaint. No good reason.

As far as I can see from the procurement process the invitation for quotes hasn't been posted as yet so we have time to change the brief, ie. "Fountain: Remove pond. Retain vertical rocks"

What's wrong with our community groups having their way? What's wrong with creating something beautiful for the visiting public to enjoy?

It's a good news story. For the Rotary Club. For the Community. For Council. For Tourism. Wins all round.

Kind regards,

Jo Martin

for Kuranda Region Planning Group

The red cross is the "hiding place" apparently - it's about half the height at the back:

"... standing vertically, they provide a hiding place where people can gather and undertake antisocial activities or worse"



Re: Anzac Park, Kuranda, AKA Rotary Park, Botanical Garden, Hidden Jewel, Green Jewel, 'Feedback for Mareeba Shire Council



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On 15/05/2024 10:11 am, Jo Martin wrote:

\*Resend - bounce on incorrect email address error:

Please read Angela's original email this morning at the bottom first.

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The following email was not delivered to the intended recipient with the bounce error code listed below:

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'Invalid Recipient - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550> [ghYcgyLoNyi-VtYqiUudtQ.au7]'

Date: 05/15/24

Time: 09:46:01

Recipient: #Councillors@msc.qld.gov.au

Subject: Re: COMPLAINT

MID: 9997857

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\*Resend - bounce on incorrect email address error:

Please read Angela's original email this morning at the bottom first.

Just got 2nd bounce:

The following email was not delivered to the intended recipient with the bounce error code listed below:

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'Invalid Recipient - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550> [WYrkGNzXOcure2tLU9\_gSg.au28]'

Date: 05/15/24

Time: 10:12:41

Recipient: Councillors@msc.qld.gov.au

Subject: Re: COMPLAINT

MID: 9998180

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