

Keeping Watch

Quarterly Newsletter No 3, August 2017
Page 1



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Development Watch has never been busier! There are so many issues but one of our biggest is the lack of respect for the primacy of our Planning Scheme. As you all would know Development Watch is a not-for-profit volunteer community group. Over several years we made a substantial contribution to the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme. At the launch of the Scheme in 2014 the Mayor said it was there to provide certainty for the community. Well, three years later, and we are still waiting for that certainty.

For the first year or so we had to deal with a possible major amendment to the Scheme for the benefit of Sekisui. Then there have been major amendments to Pelican Waters and Mooloolaba. We are now waiting to see if the State will allow development at Twin Waters West on land that was not earmarked for development as it is a flood plain and subject to tidal surge and erosion.

We have been advised by Council that more major amendments are in the pipeline and we have no idea what those amendments are. They could relate to any area on the Coast. No-one will know what could happen next door or down the road from them.

What you can do:

As you are all aware, there is a State Election looming. Once all candidates for Maroochydore and Ninderry are announced, we will be placing their contact details as well as the contact details for our sitting member Fiona Simpson on our website. We will be asking everyone to email them raising this as our biggest issue: Yes we want jobs but not at any price AND we want

“RESPECT FOR THE PRIMACY OF OUR PLANNING SCHEME”

Sunshine Coast peak residents group, OSCAR, will also be reinforcing this message.

NEXT DW MEETING – THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2017

6.30pm Coolum Meals on Wheels, Santa Monica Avenue, Coolum Beach.

For those wishing to join please go to our website www.developmentwatch.org.au for payment options (\$10/year). Complete a Membership Form and email or post it to us. We rely on community support to continue our work and new members are always welcome.

Keeping Watch

Quarterly Newsletter No 3, August 2017
Page 2



www.developmentwatch.org.au

STUNNING YAROOMBA BEACH: PERFECT ONE DAY



Sekisui House have been advertising their hotel and conference facilities. However, what they are not advertising (apart from their name) is the fact that the hotel and conference facilities are a very minor part of their proposal. Their proposal for their 19 hectare site is primarily a residential development with a hotel tacked on. Please take time to visit our website and check out our Fact Sheets. You can also view a history of the site and the advertisements we placed in local newspapers.

The proposal will be assessed against the current Planning Scheme which allows for buildings up to 8.5 metres in height. Sekisui want buildings 3 and a half times that height. The proposal is in stages and buildings over 7 storeys could be sought for Stage 2 at a later date.

The current approval allows approximately 350 dwellings on the site. Sekisui want over 1000 dwellings.

If this proposal were approved, it would send a message to developers that they too can follow suit. This is evidenced by the fact that Sekisui House have referred to the two highrise buildings already in Coolum as part of their argument to gain approval for 7 storey buildings. So this affects everyone.

We have recently become aware of a radio interview where Sekisui House have been attempting to do a deal to develop 5 acres of a golf course in Sydney to develop residential housing. This information has caused us great concern as it now appears Sekisui might want to get their hands on the Palmer Coolum Resort and carve it up!! [Click Here](#) here to listen to this interview.

Development Watch has comprised a presentation on what is really proposed. If you are a community group or you know a large group of people who would like to view this presentation, please contact our secretary Kathy on 0477 020 561 to arrange this.

[Click Here](#) to **SIGN OUR PETITION** against building height increases

Keeping Watch

Quarterly Newsletter No 3, August 2017
Page 3



www.developmentwatch.org.au

DO YOU OWN PROPERTY WITH A VIEW OF THE MT COOLUM GOLF COURSE?

A developer has attempted to do a deal with the Mt Coolum Golf Club in order to develop some land along Suncoast Beach Drive.

Council has rejected changing the Planning Scheme to allow this but the Golf Club has stated in its latest newsletter that it intends to keep pushing.

In our opinion, residents' views of the course should be protected and more importantly the Planning Scheme should not be amended to benefit a developer especially when it results in the removal of views for the majority of houses along Suncoast Beach Drive.

IS A BUNNINGS BIG BOX AN APPROPRIATE ENTRY STATEMENT TO OUR TOWN?



Court proceedings are still on foot in relation to two of the Bunnings Development Applications. The first Application (the largest) has been withdrawn.

The Hearing at this stage is set for April 2018 – part in Maroochydore and part in Brisbane.

RELOCATION OF COOLUM COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RESULTANT LOSS OF MAGNIFICENT MELALEUCAS

Coolum Residents Association attempted to resolve this issue without success. It relates to the relocation of a building that is a part of Coolum's history and the consequent loss of some magnificent trees. In relation to community engagement, Council received only 21 submissions – 11 for and 10 against. A 1000 petition was subsequently presented to Council but it was ignored.

We have now learned that the cost of relocating the community centre and the removal of the trees will be astronomical! If this goes ahead, it will be a dark day for democracy.

Keeping Watch

Quarterly Newsletter No 3, August 2017
Page 4



www.developmentwatch.org.au

A SERVICE STATION AT THE SCHOOL ROAD ROUNDABOUT!



A Development Application has been lodged for a service station at the Coolum Markets site on the corner of the school roundabout.

[Click Here](#) to see the submission we have made to the State asking that they reject the proposal on the grounds of child safety and traffic impact issues. We have also made submissions to Council and written to Cr Robinson.

MONA VISTA COURT

Three weeks ago we received frantic calls from residents regarding road reserve that is also earmarked as environmentally significant. The Department of Transport had granted a permit for a driveway to be constructed over that land, without any consultation with other departments or inspections of the site. After many phone calls and letters we established there is a Deed of Agreement over this land between the Department of Environment and Heritage and Coastcare. It is environmentally significant in that the endangered Richmond Birdwing Butterfly habitat has been found there. Phew! There is now a proper process to be followed.

CLOSING COMMENT – ‘FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT’

Development Watch is not anti-development. We do not believe, however, there should be rules for developers and rules for everyone else.

They call it “FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT” for a reason.

Development Watch is run entirely by volunteers. If you would like us to keep fighting the good fight, then please support us by DONATING to the cause – details on our website.

Thankyou for reading our newsletter.