



Council calls on govt to reject Becton plan

Michael McDonald
 Byron Shire Council voted 7-3 last week to call on the state government to reject Becton Corporation's draft masterplan for its proposed North Beach development. The motion by Deputy Mayor Jan Barham, seconded by Cr Bob Tardif, also outlined what Council saw as 'significant omissions, inaccuracies and flaws' in the masterplan.

Both a staff report and Cr Barham's successful motion argued that a masterplan for the development was not required under State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 71 as it was not a subdivision in a residential zone. Conservation group

BEACON spokesperson Dailan Pugh had earlier put that view in the public arena.

According to Mayor Tom Wilson, Council has pursued the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) for an opinion on the relevance of the masterplan since early July but has had no reply.

In an 80 minute debate on Tuesday last week Councillors considered Cr Barham's motion and an amendment by Cr Hugh Ermacora, seconded by Cr Wilson, which was essentially the staff recommendation along similar lines. Only Crs Ermacora, Wilson and Mangleson voted for the

amendment and only Crs Tucker, Higgins and Mangleson voted against the motion, with Cr Higgins having a foreshadowed amendment to defer a decision defeated 7-3.

Those Councillors supporting the motion from the start felt it sent a clearer signal in support of community views on the Becton proposal. In putting his amendment Cr Ermacora felt it was 'utterly unreasonable' for Cr Barham to present a detailed motion 'on the run'. In any case Cr Wilson gave Councillors a 22 minute break in which they considered Cr Barham's proposal before recommencing debate.

Arguing against both the motion and the amendment, Cr Ross Tucker slammed the 'terribly negative approach' to the proposal. 'The government's made this SEPP - let them sort it out,' he said.

'I'm against the whole lot,' said Cr Bob Higgins, 'I don't know who's right or who's wrong and we have no legal advice.'

'I know people in the community who do want it [North Beach]. This is not the way to run planning, you'll create disenchantment within the development community.'

While voting against the motion and the amendment, Cr Jan Mangleson had earlier argued for the amendment, saying the proposal hadn't looked at Aboriginal heritage or the need to address Council's affordable housing strategy.

On the question of a lack of response from DIPNR, Cr Sandra Heilpern said, 'It

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Remembering Bali



Silken tears stream over the dozens of golden souls, taxi drivers, daughters, fiancées, hairdressers, footballers and surfers - people from all walks of life related and interrelated brought together on Lucille Martin's poignant, embroidered roll call of those killed in last year's Kuta bombing.

The Mullumbimby artist's golden thread on a blood red batik background will be a centre piece of an exhibition opening at the Sir Claude Hotchin Art Gallery in the Royal Perth Hospital. The 12/10 Commemorative Exhibition opens on the first anniversary of the Bali tragedy.

The Royal Perth Hospital treated the largest number of burns victims from Bali. The exhibition will run from October 13-24.

Honouring St Francis...



Canon Bruce McAteer bestows a blessing on Flossy, the cow Ray Draper brought to Bangalow All Souls' Anglican Church for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on Sunday. Photo Jeff 'Littlehorn' Dawson

Island Quarry sets the SCENE

Island Quarry this Saturday is launching a new community employment project called SCENE - Sustainable Community Employment Network Enterprise. The launch will run from noon to 5pm and showcase opportunities for participants in Work for the Dole and Mutual Contribution programs.

Funded by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), SCENE will link volunteers and the unemployed with

community and arts organisations and ecologically sustainable industries and businesses to provide flexible training and work experience opportunities from bush regeneration to web design.

'With one the highest unemployment levels in the nation, Byron Shire is also rich in opportunities for those with resources, skills and networks,' said IQ coordinator Shane Rennie. 'IQ SCENE will deliver a community-grounded program of partic-

ipation choices that will support social entrepreneurship and encourage working partnerships.'

FACS representatives and IQ organisers will be at the open day to answer questions about SCENE and the rejuvenation of the old quarry site into the Island Quarry Arts and Eco Centre.

Island Quarry is on the right off Ewingsdale Road shortly before Sunnybrand Chickens. For more information visit www.IQ.org.au.



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