



press clip

Support for West Byron plans

■ Dailan Pugh's commentary (*Echo*, January 7) on the proposal for West Byron is inaccurate and misleading and the landowners encourage the people of Byron Bay and surrounds to review the proposal for themselves before forming an opinion.

There is no suggestion that the site be developed without appropriate contributions to infrastructure, including roads. The proposal includes a commitment from the landowners of more than \$6 million towards the Byron Bay bypass.

The potential population increases and resulting traffic increases mentioned by Mr Pugh are wildly inflated and provide no reference to his sources.

The proposal documentation contains verifiable modelling from a variety of expert sources and show much lower population and traffic increases.

More than 30 per cent of the site is proposed for conservation zoning. Cleared and degraded farmland would be revegetated and would *increase* the area of koala habitat and wildlife cor-

ridors, with a focus on connecting riparian areas around the Belongil Creek estuary.

The 'proposed drain' Mr Pugh encourages people to oppose already exists and is regularly excavated by Council's heavy machinery to provide drainage from the industrial estate.

We agree that rehabilitation of the drain to a more natural state is appropriate to minimise oxidation of potential acid sulphate soils and the proposal would address this at development application stage.

Those concerned by Mr Pugh's assertions should review the documentation on the proposal – and the bonafides of the experts who have contributed – to see for themselves how all of these issues have been considered and addressed.

Further information can be found at www.westbyron-project.com.au and the proposal documentation is on the NSW Planning & Infrastructure website at <http://bit.ly/westbp>.

Stuart Murray
Project Manager,
West Byron Project

■ I first came to Byron Bay in 1969.

This West Byron land release is very necessary. We need more land to accommodate people and to take pressure off land prices.

The site is in a non-agricultural area which is very suitable for development. It's near town and there's the West Byron shopping centre at Sunrise Estate.

I have done building work on that site and it is an excellent site to build on because of the sandy soil. There would be basically no truck movements to bring soil in and it won't be necessary to cart fill in. There will be a minimum cost to homeowners to have their footings designed because of the excellent soil type.

The West Byron development will be an advantage to wildlife as there is little there at the moment.

New gardens with native flowering shrubs enhance this environment.

There are very few trees of significance that need to be disturbed.

It's a flat, low site with no flood issues. Further, due to

its lowness and flatness it is protected from violent storm events.

Most building materials can be sourced from the industrial estate during the development phase, so trucks will not have to go through town.

For these among other reasons I believe the West Byron land release is essential for Byron Bay.

Roy Blumson
Byron Bay

■ I first lived in Byron Bay in 1946 and my eldest brothers started primary school here. I have been a permanent resident since returning in 1973.

It is a natural progression of the Bay to have the West Byron land released as proposed.

The proponents have done their homework and have undertaken extensive environmental studies.

As a long-term local, together with my family, I think this application is a no-brainer and for the good of the community and our future it should be approved.

Tony McCabe
Byron Bay