From: 
Sent: Thursday, 4 February 2016 6:03 PM
To: s22
Cc: 
Subject: FW: Community Engagement Strategy Report

Hi s22

Taking a guess at your email address!

See email below to s22 – and additional attachment of a summary of the November questionnaires.

Kind Regards,

[Image]

Mobile s47

From: 
Sent: Thursday, 4 February 2016 4:47 PM
To: s22
Cc: 
Subject: Community Engagement Strategy Report

[Images]

Dear s22

We have been implementing our community engagement strategy as part of the consultants work for the Master and Business Plan.

Unfortunately the consultant who is conducting the community engagement strategy is currently out of the country, however from my notes and personal involvement I can confirm that we have:

- On the 18th October sent out stakeholder letters to key stakeholder groups – see spreadsheet attached and letter
- Around the 29th October placed an advert for submissions – three received to date
Held an information market stall at the Mossman Market on Saturday and the Port Douglas market on Sunday for the weekends of 7/8 and 14/15 November. Questionnaires were filled in.

Questionnaires were placed at the council chambers and library in Mossman.

In November liaised with Jabalbina at Jabalbina to organise indigenous community stakeholder meetings.

December 12th meet with T.O.s and other representatives of Jabalbina and Mossman Gorge community.

December 12th held the science stakeholders meeting and round table discussion with representatives from JCU, the Herbarium, WTMA and Terrain – minutes attached.

Meetings ongoing with Douglas Shire Council. Individual relationships to keep stakeholders such as Flecker Botanic gardens, History Society, RDA abreast of progress and developments.

Mid January – sent out a letter drop to all residences in Mossman – letter attached.

13 January - Met with BBN at BBN Corporation, Mossman Gorge to discuss Board representation for the Yalanji people.

27th January – further meeting with BBN (Mossman Gorge).

2nd February – further meetings with BBN and Jabalbina.

Next steps:

- BBN and Jabalbina representatives attending Board meeting on the 9th February.
- Stakeholder letters to schools and kindergarten.
- Meeting for the Science group to update on progress.
- PO Box letter drop – targeting out of town residents and business.
- Delegation to DSC on the 9th February.
- Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting attendance.

I hope that this assists and is adequate. I am available to discuss at any time.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

Project Manager
Mossman Botanic Garden Creation – Stage 2

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If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, and destroy the communication and any files or attachments in their entirety, whether in electronic or hard copy format. Thank you.
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Friday, 12 February 16

Hon. Warren Entsch, MHR
PO Box 14
Bungalow Qld 4870

Dear Warren,

After an extensive tender process Mossman Botanic Garden Inc. is delighted to announce that we are commencing the Master Planning and Business Development Planning Stage of the Mossman Botanical Garden (MBG). We now seek input from stakeholders who have the skills and interest to help support and steer this iconic project. A successful Botanical Garden requires extensive collaboration with stakeholders such as yourself. What we plan and design will define the framework and future of the gardens.

We would appreciate it if you could nominate a representative of your organisation as soon as possible so that we may organise a meeting with them to determine and ascertain the level of interest and support you would like to offer us.

Mossman Botanic Garden is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation which aims to establish a world-class Botanic Garden, presenting and promoting Australia’s Wet Tropics and rainforest plants centered on a Wet Tropics Arboretum. In conjunction with the Douglas Community we will establish a botanical garden that will be a regional centre of excellence. The garden will demonstrate how rainforests provide sustainable and commercial opportunities within a responsible framework. This is a unique opportunity to highlight the broad range of Wet Tropic’s rainforest plants and the critical need to conserve and demonstrate the environmental significance of rainforests.

MBG now has a home in the heart of Mossman. This prime site has been purchased with funding from the Commonwealth Government. It is situated at the north end of the Mossman Township providing 20 Hectares (50 acres) between Foxton Avenue (Captain Cook Hwy) and Goobidi Creek connecting to the Mossman River.

This intensive process will culminate in March 2016 and involves a review of all aspects of the requirements for the garden.

As an organization that has already lent support for the concept of these gardens we now invite you or a nominee(s) from your organisation that we can work with together during this important and exciting planning stage. If you know anyone outside your organisation that you feel may be of benefit to this project please provide us their details so we can contact them.

Mossman BG has selected LA3 to be the master planning consultants and designers for this World Class Garden in the Australian Wet Tropics and they will join us in the stakeholder process. We shall be organising a group of key stakeholder meetings in the next two weeks and look forward to including you in that process.

Chair Mossman Botanic Gardens Inc.

[Contact Information]

A seed has started to grow.....the community now needs to help it take root

You are probably aware that Mossman Botanic Garden, a non for profit community project, is taking place .....and with time, will be a major Botanic Garden. This is an exciting project for Mossman which should be enjoyed and appreciated by the whole Douglas Community.

So where will the gardens be?
The gardens will eventually be on the land currently growing cane, west of the Mossman-Daintree Road, and behind the playground as shown approximately below

So at what stage is the project?
After a competitive tender the Mossman Botanic Garden Board recently appointed LA3 Landscape Architects to deliver a Master Plan and Business Development Plan by April 2016. The Cairns based LA3 is working with two Douglas Shire businesses, The Botanical Ark and Australia-Pacific Consultants, to make sure this project involves and represents the local community.

What happens next?
Once the Master Plan and Business Development Plans are competed then fund raising can start to get the Gardens Growing. The project will probably be developed in stages over the next few years. The first Stage will probably contain many of the components that the public expects to see and enjoy.

So how do I fit into all this?
Now is a great time for you to engage with the project and make it known what you would like and how you feel this Garden can benefit you. If you have any concerns, now is the best time to raise them. The Garden should be an asset to the Community, and MBG and the LA3 consortium need to work with you to make it a success for everyone.

Thank you

Mossman Botanic Garden, Inc.
P.O. Bo 1235, Mossman, 4873

Current Board Members are:

Project Manager – Stage 2 Creation –
Mossman Botanic Garden Creation Project

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A presentation was given by [Name] and then the floor opened to discussion.

Below are the main points that were discussed and generally agreed.

1. Biosecurity.

It is absolutely key that this is a solid foundation and without this there will be no endorsement for the Garden. People are more important than words and MBG needs to work with the right people to ensure that Biosecurity is of world class standard. The case for and against ‘80% native and 20% exotics’ was discussed with the points made that

- There is ultimately a need to provide the public with a garden and experience that they are willing to pay for
- Exotics could be considered on a case by case basis and a decision made if their inclusion can be justified
- The opportunity to showcase how quarantine works and engage visitors through education and understanding the risks

Transparency and probity are essential and an independent advisory group was agreed on. Exact role, funding and participants was not discussed and further discussions are needed.

2. Business Case:

MBG has been exploring the business case for the Garden since its inception with ideas including

- Tourism (gate fee, café, shops, events, nursery selling native exotic plants, amphitheatre..)
- Education (evolution of plants, future of world food)
- Sustainability (energy, water...)
- Philanthropy (Conservation, preservation..)
- Scientific research
- Innovation (Boyd’s forest dragon as the theme with changes in landform and buildings inside the body, unique collections from the wet tropics...)
Questions were asked such as is it the job of MBG to conduct research? Is research more relevant in the natural environment where plants are in situ? What is the experience for the punter? If MBG were to design its brochure what would it look like? Under questioning it became clear that the most important focus for MBG is that the front end needs to be working. And the answer to that became the very obvious “the oldest living culture in the oldest living rainforest”. If MBG can get that right then the rest will follow with links to education and sustainability developing and providing authenticity.

3. The front end

“the world’s oldest living culture and the world’s oldest rainforest” enables MBG to sell the features that it has, the site, the links to the gorge, the wet tropics. The indigenous perspective is unique with the potential to tell the story of how TOs engage with their country, tell stories about the plants on their country. The objective should be re empowerment of indigenous people on country and a show case of the interaction of wet tropic culture and botany. Alongside this comes the story of the destruction of rainforest, the European (sugar cane) culture, and a practical demonstration of reforestation to tell visitors. With MBG focusing on the front end there is scope for interested science parties to carry out pertinent research (e.g. microbe re inoculation from today’s base line).

4. International capacity building with Lae Botanic Gardens may be an interesting future partnership.

5. Wet tropics culture and history

The focus on the wet tropics culture and history will generate ideas such as a cane cutters cottage in the grounds as an art center or in association with the Mossman Historical society, the need to have a good café in Mossman to showcase the farming community’s diverse foods, traditional foods.

6. Partners

Terrain and WTMA would be interested in continuing discussion on interpretive and educational aspects of the story (including innovative agriculture with the regions diverse production profile)

7. Wrap:
   • Focus on sustainability: Cultural sustainability. Water sustainability. Weeds policy – developed as world’s best practice.
   • First and foremost it needs to be a botanic gardens, it needs to look attractive, be interesting and people need to have a good time
   • Biosecurity – needs to be an independent and transparent process
   • Governance – independent oversite of governance would be good
   • Scope for WTMA to provide interpretation on the wet tropics and the site
   • Scope for Terrain to provide the rehabilitation interpretation

NEXT MEETING: MBG would appreciate another meeting in January when the Draft Master Plan will be further developed.
We would appreciate your time to complete our short community survey.

1. Do you think that a Botanic Garden in Mossman is a good idea?

2. Do you think that it will encourage more tourism to the region?

3. Would you use it?

4. Would you pay an entrance fee for the Botanical Garden component?

5. Do you think that the location is easily accessible?

6. Will you support this project?

7. Do you already visit other venues in the region?

Thank you for your support!
The future home of
Botanic Garden Mossman

MOSSMAN

Botanic Garden

Document 3
Launch of the BGM Master Plan and Business Development Plan
Video ‘fly through’ will be screened and documents available for discussion on

Saturday 23rd April 9 – 12 CWA, Mossman

Wednesday 27th April 10 – 12 The Gorge Community – BBN Board Boom

Botanic Garden
MOSSMAN
The Origin of Gardens