

Deputation Summary

From: Wulf von der Decken of 7 John St Dalby

Delivered at WDRC Marble St Dalby on June 20th 2024 - General Council meeting at 10:30am.

1. Feedback regarding the “Have your say” and “Location Evaluation” surveys.

Council has confounded the need for development with the need for parks and green space in these surveys. I suggest they were designed to force the two needs together. A statistician I believe would agree that these surveys are heavily skewed for development if not wholly so. There has been no transparency as to how the data has been tabulated either.

The survey was a lost opportunity at gauging public sentiment, either for or against the proposed development of Thomas Jack Memorial Park specifically.

2. Most people are aware of the need for development in the community. Common wants are for a cinema and a larger venue for Gallery 107. They just don't want it at the expense of losing such a beautiful and historic park. A common theme in the community is “Why develop the park when there is already a vacant plot of land at 107 Warrego Highway where the original cinema, gallery and library were”.

3. The Budget. WDRC is debt free which is highly commendable and I thank Councillors past and present for their prudence in this regard. Being debt free puts less pressure on the need to raise rates. Debt can be a downward spiral sucking the lifeblood out of a community just to pay interest on credit that was created as a ledger entry at practically no cost by a bank. I am grateful to live under a council with such conservatism and prudence in this regard.

4. I believe one of the plans being reviewed to keep Council debt free and also cater to the needs of the community for development, is the sale of Lot 107 Warrego Highway. The funds from the sale of this Lot would fund proposed development of Thomas Jack Memorial Park - keeping the Council debt free.

5. Alternatively I believe at some point someone in Town Planning must have suggested the possibility of relocating the Dalby Race Course further out of town. This would expand the town. The land fronting the highway could be sold and commercialised. Land further behind the commercial strip could be developed and sold for housing. Not for communist housing blocks but for The Australian dream and Culture, why people came here in the first place.

Council would need to buy some land further out of town for the new race course, but the financial value of this land would greatly increase over time. The process could be repeated in 40 years as the town grows. **The Sale of the racecourse would wholly fund a wonderful and expansive Cultural Centre @ 107 Warrego Highway. Thereby preserving Thomas Jack Memorial Park.**

6. The prospect of paving over 1/3 of Thomas Jack park to put up a gallery and cinema. Where people can look at pictures of trees and nature that they just bulldozed, seems awful. The more development the more need for parking, paving paradise to put up a parking lot.

I used a few printouts of famous paintings such as “This is not a Pipe, The Mona Lisa and Sunflowers” to explain the difference between representations of life in a gallery and living life, say flowers, trees, people, a sunrise.

7. Tabling, demonstrating and submitting the Statistical Model called “Thomas Jack Park, Have your say the Marble way”. This model is devised to clearly and transparently gauge sentiment, either for or against proposed development of Thomas Jack Memorial Park. Which is of primary concern to the community.

8. Council could take ownership of this model. Council Officers could then formulate policy and procedure documents for its operation so it could be run in an unbiased way, keeping everything above board.

It's completely transparent, physically and mathematically. It's visual, clearly showing where sentiment is, and it's fun. People can have their say, and see which way sentiment is flowing. It's also accurate. Officers would supervise it's operation with a database record also. The model demonstrates accountability.

The model could be run on the Ground floor at Council Offices on Marble St, and or at Dalby Shopping World, under strict Council supervision.

What is the weight of a decision, say of a box of 300 marbles compared to the weight of a decision of only one marble.

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THOMAS JACK PARK

HAVE YOUR SAY

THE MARBLE WAY



TRANSPARENCY
ACCURACY
ACCOUNTABILITY