

Open Letter to the Premier of Queensland

Mr D. Crisafulli
Premier of Queensland
Parliament House
George Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000
11th December, 2024

Mr Premier,

Dear Sir,

Re: **Western Downs Regional Council**

We appeal to you, Sir, not just for sympathy, but for leadership and advice in a situation which has rapidly escalated into nasty divisive issues which have torn apart the hitherto happy and cohesive communities which comprise the Western Downs, geographically, one of the largest council areas in the State of Queensland.

We refer to a proposal by the current Western Downs Regional Council to construct a concrete monstrosity, to be known as a Cultural Precinct, within the boundary of our precious green space known as Thomas Jack Park, generally acknowledged as “the Jewel in the Crown” of all urban parks in Queensland.

To add insult to injury, we are led to believe that council, in an astonishing proposal of recklessness, plans to demolish a structure of historical significance, elegance and durability known as the Rotunda – a gift, many years ago, to the people of Dalby by the then Rotary Club of Dalby. There remain in this town just a few octogenarian Rotarians who well remember the blood, toil, tears and finance that helped bring that project to fruition. It is a rotunda that blends beautifully with the present tree scape to provide an area where music, conviviality, civic and family gatherings can take place, irrespective of prevailing weather conditions.

The rotunda belongs to the people of Dalby. The Western Downs Regional Council needs to consider carefully the backlash which will inevitably follow the destruction of an edifice that is not theirs to destroy. How could the Western Downs Regional Council get so much so wrong in such a short time after being elected to office?

The angst created by the present Western Downs Regional Council has galvanised into action more than twenty (20) persons from a broad section of the community, including a much-respected former long-serving mayor, and two (2) former aldermen, should the current council acknowledge the critical errors already made and resign – unlikely, given their attitudes of arrogance and obstinacy in their total disregard for their constituents – and in the event of pressure being brought to bear to have the current WDRC disbanded, and a replacement election process be put in place to protect the Western Downs citizens from further deleterious deliberations destined to impact hurtfully their way of life.

Western Downs Regional Council, People Power is alive and well throughout the entire Western Downs. They are voters and their opinions are valid.

Mr Premier, thank you for taking the time to peruse the concerns expressed in this letter. We are prepared to meet you personally at some time, convenient to you, to reassure you we are not rabble-rousing dissidents, just Western Downs residents whose concerns are real and genuine. Yours sincerely,

We Love Thomas Jack Park adherents.