

Thursday January 16th 2024
Wulf von der Decken
7 John St Dalby
QLD, 4405
wulfdecken@hotmail.com

The Hon Councillor Andrew Smith
Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council

30 Marble St Dalby QLD, 4405

Jodie Tylor
Chief Executive Officer

Western Downs Regional Council
30 Marble St Dalby QLD, 4405

Councillors:
Councillor Kylie Bourne; Councillor Sophie Bougoure; Councillor Sam Condon; Councillor Megan James; Councillor Kaye Maguire; Councillor George Moore; Councillor Greg Olm;
Councillor Peter Saxelby

Western Downs Regional Council
30 Marble St Dalby QLD, 4405

Re: Bungled “Have Your Say Survey”

Dear Mayor Andrew Smith, CEO Jodie Taylor, and all Councillors of the Western Downs Regional Council,

I refer you to the Dalby Cultural Centre Community Engagement Report and Site Analysis which can be found on the link below.

https://hdp-au-prod-app-wd-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/4917/1894/1115/Dalby_Cultural_Centre_Community_Engagement_Report_and_Site_Analysis.pdf

Page 9: Rudimentary Insights: 728 people completed the online “Have Your Say Survey”; There were ONLY 19 paper survey responses ! Totalling 747 responses: The population of the Western Downs is 33843 people according to the 2021 Census (source Wikipedia). $(747/33843) * 100 =$ **Only 2.2% of the people of the Western Downs responded.**

The percentages shown on the graphic on page 10 have nothing to do with percentages of the overall population. They just refer to percentages of different age groups surveyed.

There were only 19 paper survey responses, after “27 days of community engagement” ! The paper forms were at the Library and Dalby Shopping World. If I was in charge of gathering data from the community and I was receiving almost no responses I would immediately realise there was a problem. I would consider the possibility that the survey was convoluted and confusing.

Here are some more glaring problems with the “Have Your Say Survey”:

The biggest issue is that **Five Thousand (5000) people signed the Petition saying they did not want a Cultural Centre in their Park.** This figure was whittled down to about 1500 from my information - still **Twice as many responses than your “Have Your Say Survey”**, which for some bizarre reason you seem to be proud of judging from the colourful 39 page report.

There was no-where in the 7 pages of surveys which asked the salient question from the Petition: Do you want a cultural Centre built in the Park.

The Survey was in two (2) parts, the second location survey which was as equally convoluted and confusing as the first. Seven (7) Pages of asking people people what do you want and value, whilst completely ignoring the premier issue which is do they want the Centre in the Park, or Not.

I refer you to Page 12: “Which facilities are most important (to you) ?”

“1. Cinema” - From what I have seen from the initial draft plans the Cinema is back to front, with the chairs facing back into the open foyer and park. Are you planning to bring actors and props into a well light foyer ? From my observations not enough space has been allocated for a decent Cinema. **People’s number one want was not a multi-use cinema theatre space, it was a Cinema.**

“2. Library” - How big is the Library ? Is there enough space, for now and the future?

“3. Live music/ theatre and performance” - Is this music live bands ? How is this going to effect the people that live adjacent to the park ?

I refer you to Page 13 : “Summary of support and each consideration:”

- **“Should be easily accessible by car Should be easily accessible by car Score 4.36”**

This was the number one (1) response. It was even mentioned twice ! Does this give it an actual score of 8.72 relative to all other responses? **This negates the main reason for jamming the Centre in the Park - instead of putting it back at 107 Drayton St, does it not ?**

- “Should be located on a site where there is enough space to replace what we had at MyAll107 Score 4.15”

This was the second highest response. People just want what they **LOST at 107 Drayton**. Now they are at risk of loosing both, a Decently Sized MyAll Centre, & extensive swathes of their beloved Park. All because they were never asked openly and honestly - Do you want a Cultural Centre in Thomas Jack Park, or Develop elsewhere.

- **“Should not take away existing green space Score 4.06”:**

This was the third highest response, but for some reason the top three were represented in pale green instead of a traditionally higher priority colour. **Should Not Take Away from Green Space.** Even from the limited responses that were available it’s clear people want the following:

- Easily accessible by car (and obviously the need for ample & un-cramped parking). Consider those that live far from Dalby or just want to drive - Having car in this Region is essential and they will need parking.
- They want what they LOST at MyAll 107. **Most people just want it put back at 107 Drayton, they were just never asked.**
- They Don’t want to take away existing green space i.e. Their **Park which is the Pride of Dalby.**

Lastly I’d like to refer you to Council’s Community Engagement Policy, which you should have.

1. Purpose

“The *Local Government Act 2009* (The Act) indicates that Council decisions should be based on **meaningful community engagement**”.

Surveying only 2% of the population via a confusing and lengthy survey, and coming up with a questionable outcome even from these results - is not in the spirit of the Act, nor your policy.

Sincerely,

Wulf von der Decken