

Submission against granting a licence to Pottsville & District Men's Shed

I would like to make a submission against granting a licence to Pottsville & District Men's Shed (P&DMS) at part of Lot 301 in DP 1125090, Overall Drive, Pottsville.

Summary: Men's Shed submission - a submission to Tweed Council who are trying to force through a licence to build against the best interest of either the Mens' Shed or the wildlife currently threatened near Pottsville. Council should not act at an extraordinary meeting just days before the Council election on 29th October. TSC should instead wait on the results of the election which will gauge the wishes of the public. Our state government is rightly concerned and Geoff Provest MLA has recommended waiting until after the election. I appeal to what is sensible to avoid unnecessary conflict in our community. We promote the Men's Shed aspirations as well as the need for wildlife reserves. The future depends on you.

Thanks.

S. Sledge, President, Northern Rivers Guardians 12th October 2016

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- Pottsville and District Men's Shed minutes reveal that Lot 3 Centennial Ave is both their and Council's preferred option for a permanent site. Now that the Pre-school has determined how much of the Lot 3 site they need for their extension, the remainder is available for consideration. This land is central to the Pottsville community.

Council is fast-tracking the temporary Black Rocks site against the desire of some P&DMS members. P&DMS are currently operating at a temporary site at the Pottsville Primary School (with no urgent need to relocate) Therefore it is **illogical** to go to another temporary site.

- The Lot 3 site preparation should be fast-tracked in order to avoid wasting public grant money on a temporary location at Black Rocks, far from where the P&DMS members mainly live.

There seems to be a hidden agenda behind the current Council's insistence that the Mens Shed be built in an inappropriate location - perhaps to secretly benefit other development projects. A decision should be held over until the new Council is elected on 29th October with a mandate on this issue.

- The **proposed location of Lot 3 Centennial Ave** for the men's shed does not require any clearing of koala habitat. The Ecological Assessment for the Pre-school DA states that there is no potential koala habitat or evidence of koalas at the Lot 3 site.
- Environmentalists want revegetation of the Black Rocks sports field based on the recommendations of Dr Steve Phillips and 3 other ecologists. The isolated clearing there is surrounded by core koala habitat and should be encouraged for wildlife preservation.

People have to allow some room for other species if all are to survive.

- Council knows about the NSW government Preliminary Determination for coastal koalas to be 'at very high risk of localised extinction in NSW'. Activities such as those proposed for the Men's Shed have the potential to impact badly on the Tweed coastal koala population.
- The NSW Scientific Committee in their Preliminary Determination said koalas east of highway in Tweed are at very high risk of localised extinction in NSW.
- Council knows that episodic disturbances of loud noise (such as a light industrial facility like a men's shed with lathes, drills, power tools) can result in elevated stress responses and/or disease levels resulting in disease and death.
- Measures promoted by Council to diminish threats to koalas at this isolated clearing at Black Rocks (e.g. vehicle calming, a 20hr km speed limit, model plane flights and off leash dogs) can not be enforced and are therefore meaningless. Council asserts that koalas can survive impacts from construction of a men's shed or its ongoing activities, but has no scientific basis for this optimism.

According to koala expert Dr Steve Phillips, there is a strong likelihood of significant impact if a men's shed is built at the Black Rocks sports field. **Put it somewhere else!**