

Dear Mr Green,

Please make copiers of this letter available to all Councillors.

Re: Landscaping around the new Caltex roadhouse south of Chinderah

I write on behalf of Northern Rivers Guardians Inc , an activist organisation with more than 600 members, mostly residents of Tweed Shire.

At our meeting on Saturday 17-12-16 a motion was approved that I should write to express dismay that the new petrol station will soon be opened without attention to its surroundings. The meeting asked for urgent action to ameliorate the damaged environment around the service centre which impacts upon the pleasant aspect of the neighbouring property, *Melaleuca Station*.

We do not want advertising for the fast food outlets to dominate the major northern access to the shire. Please give this matter serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Sledge

NRG President

PO Box 309

Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Hi Scott,

Reference is made to your email received by Council with respect to landscaping at the Caltex roadhouse. I understand that Mayor Milne has received a response to this enquiry which may have been forwarded to you but I wanted to confirm that you have received a response in writing also. Enquiries have been made with relevant Council staff and they have provided the following advice in relation to the concerns you have raised in your email.

‘The landscaping of new Chinderah Petrol Station roundabout and approaches along Tweed Valley Way were designed by the developer’s landscape architect to provide a balance between visual amenity, cost of maintenance for Council, and safety implications for road users and Council maintenance staff. The approved landscape plan for the roundabout shows predominantly basalt rock designed to reflect the rock formations of Fingal Head, with grouped plantings of trees and understory. The roundabout approach is stamped concrete – the stamping pattern was also designed to reflect angular rock formations of Fingal Head. The concrete approaches to the roundabout are to maximise safety for road users and council maintenance staff, and to minimise maintenance costs.

The balance of the streetscape is grass consistent with the other nonurban roads in the shire. The area is likely to look dry and windswept at the moment because the weather is dry, the plantings are new and the site still under construction.’

I have attached a copy of the landscape plans for your review.

Regards

David O'Connell | Town Planner

All official correspondence requiring a formal written response should be addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 816, Murwillumbah, 2484; or emailed to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au; or faxed to 02 6670 2429.

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Hi Scott

This is the exact same wording as the response I received from Council. The only way this disastrous excuse for landscaping will be rectified is if a Councilor or better still our Mayor (Hi Katie) raises it as a motion for Council to heavily revegetate the entry to the Tweed Valley Way which will not only be conducive with the back drop of Wollumbin and the distant rainforest also disguise the 10 hectares of heat reflecting concrete. I am disgusted that TS Council even approved such an inappropriate development in the first place during the build up to complete cessation of our dependence in all fossil fuels.

Earth Learning has also prepared a letter to Council mentioning it's complete dismay to the shocking way the Tweed Valley entry has been treated by a landscape designer who appears to have been absent during most of his or her landscape study course. It is assumed that this person is from Fingal Head and decided to make a permanent rock reminder of his or her artistic license, which appears to have expired some time ago.

Katie, we look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Andrew Bennett