

Tourism Opportunity

On Sat, 8 May 2021 at 1:58 pm, Gwyn Hooper <gwyningreece@gmail.com> wrote:

Back in the day our 'founding fathers' tried to envisage what Australia would look like in the future and tried to plan for their vision.

One of these plans was to protect land for future road use based on the expansion of the population.

There are still today 'Crown Land Road Reserves' throughout Australia that were drawn on maps over a hundred years ago.

The Eastern boundary of my property is one.

They also built railways and protected the railway corridors as Govt lands.

Our 'Founding Fathers' vision has helped Australia get to where it is today.

Therefore it beggars belief that the Tweed Shire Council and its Councillors can be so shortsighted when it comes to the future.

The beauty of the Tweed is without doubt and as a Tourist Destination it is to be envied,

Therefore the vision of the Council and Councillors should be to protect the area and to promote Tourism.

It will soon become the most valuable business and biggest employer in the Shire.

It is therefore mind blowing that the Council and some of the Councillors seem hell bent on ripping up the railway line to eventually Byron Bay.

It's great to have the rail trail but it's even better to have a dual use of train and bike track.

The return of trains will not be back to the trains of old but will be in my mind a small (hopefully renewable energy powered train) catering for commuters but more importantly tourists.

The tourist attraction of Byron Bay is well known. The numbers are staggering year round.

Having a train to Mbah with stops along the way would prove a boon to local businesses between the two places. Stokers, Billinudgel, Mullum etc.

The success of the Zig Zag Railway in the Blue Mountains and Puffing Billy in Melbourne are prime examples of what could be achieved. A tourist Steam Train would be a fantastic addition to the areas Tourism as well.

Coupled with the bike trail/walking track it would be a win win.

Hiking, Biking and Rail can be very safe.

I have personally hiked the Kalyvrita Rack and Pinion railway track in the Peloponnese Greece going through tunnels and gorges with plenty of prior warning from the trains. No safety issues whatsoever. It can be done far easier here.

My family in Sydney have all said what a great thing it would be to jump on a train and spend a day in Byron. Anyone trying to drive and park there would understand the benefit of a train. Many people I have spoken to from outside the area agree it would be a great tourist attraction.

If the Council supports ripping up the rails and not pursuing a train/bike/hike option I believe they will be severely impacting the future of Tourism in the Tweed.

Detrimental to existing and future businesses in the area.

In fact failing in their duty to the people of the Shire and to all those outside who support this boon to Tourism.

Personally I would use the train to Byron, use it to places in between and bike back and use it to walk on. For me triple use is a no brainer.

Mbah and it's businesses would boom with a tourist train.

At the moment it has little going for it and really needs a revamp. A tourist train would provide that.

So I should like to ask you all to pursue a vision for the future, for the Shire and its people and support keeping the railway.

Gwyn Hooper
Uki.