

Health care and aged care

- Without hospital, x-ray facilities and public transport, managing patients is very challenging for local doctors. The changing of the Government assessment of Tamborine Mountain under the new Monash Model to 'urban' (MMM1) is a real concern, leading to loss of the necessary rural grants and less choice regarding training of registrars. The same negative impact of the MMM1 classification also applies to arts funding. This needs to be remedied.
- The aged care facility, as well as overall medical services should be increased in order to meet future needs.

Other services

- The Mountain has sufficient **sports grounds**, but improvements are possible, with expansion of sporting fields and improvement of **swimming facilities**. A session with high school kids indicated that young people feel that they lack facilities.
- The **library** needs to be larger, and equipped with modern data/meeting/function room facilities.

E. For locals and visitors

Local economy

- Despite welcoming 1.3 to 2.0 million visitors each year (the number depends on definitions of the word **visitor**), many local businesses cannot get enough traction to make a good living. An economic vision is needed which includes targets for jobs, based on hard data like tourism numbers and tourism accommodation. Non- tourism-based business should be included.
- Policies should be defined on topics like Festivals and events, AirBnB, camping and glamping facilities, an RV park and the Wedding Industry, yoga retreats, camps for children with disabilities, nature retreats, camping parks with nature-based activities and open farms. Future job growth will be in **skilled service industries** which deserve development.
- Retail chains like **McDonalds, Coles and Gloria Jean's** can easily ruin the character of the Mountain.

Arts and culture

- The presence of a large community of amateur and professional artists is not currently reflected in available services.
- Tamborine Mountain deserves a **Community Arts and Interpretive Rainforest Centre** to produce, display and sell local art and to present information about the local environment. Location options include the former IGA, the Vonda Youngman Centre, Landcare site, Sports grounds etc. The local artists would like to be involved in running the Centre.
- Local art should be used for display and for sale at local shops.
- The former **Open Studios Trail** could also be included in co-operation between artists and businesses.
- Creating the **TM Universe precinct** for locals and visitors is widely supported by the community.

F. Council should empower and engage residents

Local government and community

- Local government Councillors, as well as the Council at large, works for the community, not the other way around. The relationship between Tamborine Mountain and the local Council has been sub-optimal for a long time.
- A certain level of **"Divisional Autonomy"** should be applied to strengthen the voice (and vote) of a local councillor regarding policy-decisions in their division. All too often, local division votes are simply swept away at Council meetings.
- Community consultation needs to be sincere, not merely a promotion or marketing exercise. "Consultative surveys" could be part of the process; all Council meetings should be open; **Council's right to spend up to \$100,000 without explanation and public support should be challenged.**

Rates

- With 1% of the land size and 19% of the population of the Shire, Tamborine Mountain contributes **24% of the rates to the Scenic Rim Council**. However, the rates at the neighbouring Shire of the Gold Coast are **roughly half of the TM rates**. Submissions were received expressing the **unfair outcome of the rates system**, others emphasise that it is fair because we are wealthier and therefore pay more, and we also, rightfully, contribute to the roads and bridges elsewhere in the Scenic Rim. Some suggest that the Differential Rating mechanism needs to be re-implemented, in order to ensure that we receive Services with relatively identical price tags as extended to other parts of the region. **TM simply seeks equitable treatment.**
- In some submissions, question marks were placed on the **'infrastructure charges'** we pay.
- Pensioners should uniformly be given a rates discount (as allegedly other councils do as well).

Council

- The choice for local government should be with the people of the community.
- In the Blueprint process so far, the topic of **'choice' of local government** (if there is a choice) has not been raised. In the next stage of the Blueprint, after finalising the text at a community meeting in February, we will discuss the best way of 'getting things done' which are mentioned in this vision document. The choice of Local Government will be robustly discussed.
- Lowering rates requires - according to the Council - a larger ratepayer base. **So, maybe the Shire is too small to survive?**

BLUEPRINT

THE VOICE OF TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN

Introduction

The four pages presented here as 'Blueprint Tamborine Mountain version 3.0' are The Executive Summary of the hundreds of submissions our team has received. In late December and in January, an online survey will allow you to express your ideas about this Blueprint, which will be included in its final form. All previous and current editions of the Blueprint, as well as the survey and response forms are available at www.visittamborinemountain.com.au/blueprint

A. Main topics

- Crucial to the success of Tamborine Mountain in 2030 will be provision of high quality infrastructure in combination with optimal protection of natural environment.
- In addition, issues are relevant to local residents, like the subdivision policies, population numbers, water and sewerage, waste collection, sport, education, healthcare and aged care need attention.
- The Blueprint also lists topics related to both residents and visitors, such as the village atmosphere, energy supply and art & culture.
- The fifth chapter describes interaction with government, by clarifying what the community expects from its relationship with local government: there is substantial room for improvement.
- Vision: the natural, social and cultural environments which help define the quality of living on the Mountain as well as the opportunities for further development of the healthy, nature and tourism based economy; TM should be designated as a clean, green, eco-community, with businesses focused on and leveraging from that. TM should be self-sustaining and sustainable, leading the way and educating the world. Tourists should visit for this reason, not just for picnicking.

B. Infrastructure

One master-plan

- Lack of comprehensive and locally supported infrastructure policies have led to an unsustainable situation, especially on weekends and during events, more and more impacting on residential areas, and leading to major parking issues for visitors.
- In addition, infrastructure planning should also support sustainable living, a healthy lifestyle, recreational facilities and conservation of flora and fauna.
- A visionary infrastructure plan is crucial to achieve the goal that Tamborine Mountain will continue to be a pleasant place to live in 2030, benefiting from a healthy local economy.

Pedestrian Zones

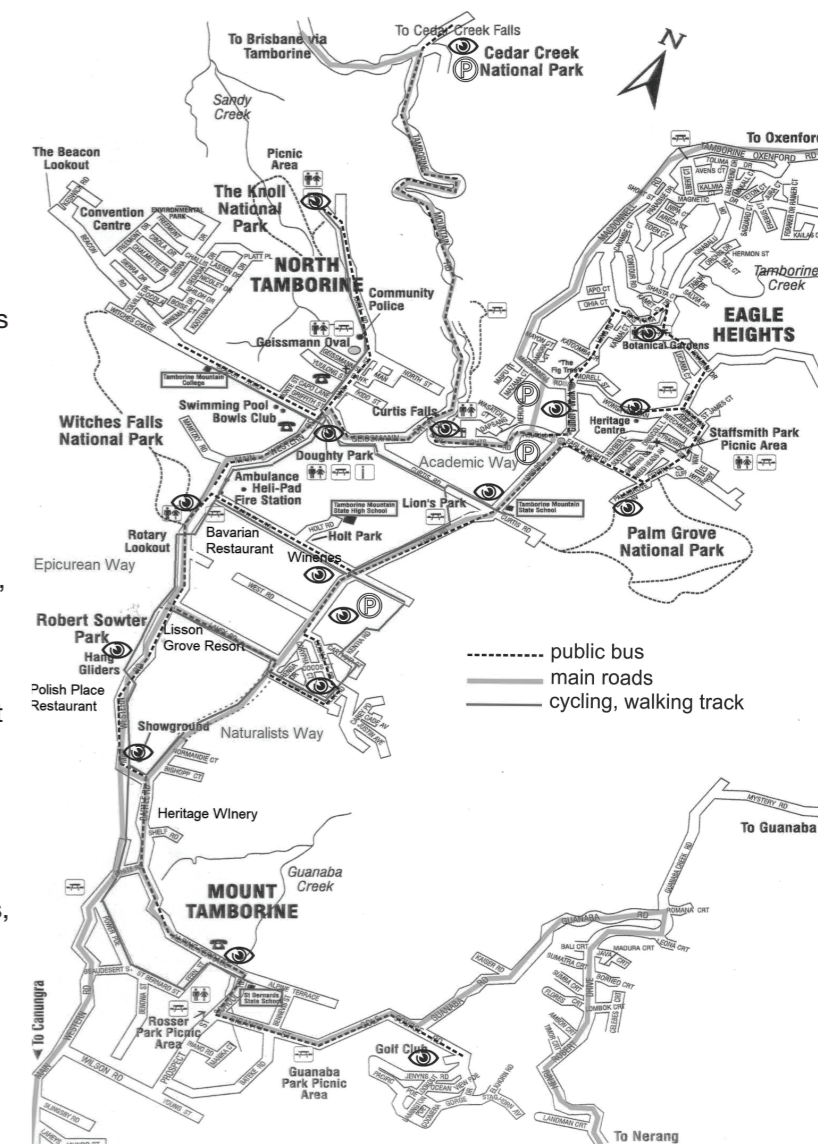
- Pedestrian areas not only improve the visitors'/shoppers' experience, they increase road safety and encourage visitors to enjoy the premises for a longer period of time. Each zone should provide a safe pedestrian environment and car parks. Three potential pedestrian areas have been identified: Gallery Walk, Main Western Road and Main Street.

Long Road extension

- In 2005 a roundabout was built behind the Showgrounds, to 'be ready' for the Long Road extension. Suggestions have been made to connect Esme Street to Normandie Court. Local residents object because of the potential impact on lifestyle and cattle.

Gallery Walk

- Gallery Walk has a vital tourism role to play: it should be a showcase for the Mountain's values and should also attract locals. It should be greener, pedestrian-friendly and set enforceable outlines for the selection of shops:



MORE INFORMATION: WWW.VISITTAMBORINEMOUNTAIN.COM.AU/BLUEPRINT

- A **Gallery Walk Infrastructure Plan** should be implemented, based on extensive Council plans from 2000 and 2010, and address among other issues, the management of very high visitor numbers on specific days.
- An over-arching **Gallery Walk Development Plan** should be developed by residents, the business community and local government to address the image of the Walk, with measures in place to enhance the quality and diversity of products and services. To a certain extent, rules should be mandatory for business owners and landlords.

Public transport

Two forms of Public transport have been identified: regional and local.

- A regular service to and from the Gold Coast, several times a day, for both locals and visitors. Lessons need to be learned from the failed attempts of the past.
- A local hop on/hop off service should provide transport for both locals and tourists, connecting main shopping centres, car parks and tourism destinations. A charge should be payable for this service. Electric vehicles would be cost-effective, quiet and project a good image.
- Forms of transport other than private cars should always be preferred. A cableway, an Uber project or other forms of public transport should be considered if any proposals are made by entrepreneurs or government.

Walking and cycling tracks

- Ideas for a circular paved walking/cycling track have been on the table for more than a decade (*see map on page 1*), connecting work/school, shops, sports centre, tourism precincts and National and local parks.
- A special bicycle track to and from the Mountain would reduce the danger currently experienced by both bikers and car-drivers on the main roads.
- An extension of the walk/cycle track could be the creation of a walking track all around the Mountain.

Streetscapes

- The community at large seems to consider a well-managed infrastructure plan more important than incidental, beautification projects, which include public art, rural street-furniture, more public toilets. In addition, a 50 kmh speed limit all over the Mountain (and some streets 40 kmh), signs at gateway points stating that “Tamborine Mountain is a Sanctuary” and special measures implemented at high roadkill locations.

C. Natural environment

- TM luckily avoided becoming another suburb: retaining good wildlife habitat is the leading principle. The main managerial challenge of Tamborine Mountain continues to be the balance between economy and ecology; the community at large appreciates the value of both and needs to be actively involved in making decisions and deciding on priorities.

Green Behind the Gold

- Threats to our rainforest include ‘loving nature to death’ due to large visitor numbers and climate change. Tamborine Mountain needs a structured involvement of the local community in addressing these issues.
- A Local Environment NGO should organise better involvement of the local residents in the preservation and use of natural environment, both as volunteers and paid staff. A comprehensive plan should be endorsed by existing local organisations, including Chamber, Progress Ass’n, Landcare, TM History Ass’n and the Garden Club.
- The NGO can take “connecting people with wildlife’ as a central theme. TM should aim for a reputation as a premium destination for wildlife experience, including guided walks, responsible bird-feeding, nature-focused arts classes and participation in wildlife spotting and surveys.
- Businesses on the Mountain should offer to tourist customers the opportunity to contribute to a fund that supports the maintenance of the natural flora on the Mountain, which visitors enjoy. The suggested amount is 1% of a sale. A bank could be involved to set up an EFTPOS system. This fundraising not only supports much-needed funding for **Landcare** and similar groups, but also is great PR for the Mountain, and will help to connect local environmentalists and businesses.
- Better signage, BBQ facilities, track maintenance and extra viewing points need to be established.
- Private and government land owners should get together in a formal way to define locations for wildlife corridors.
- At the VIC and/or a separate Rainforest Centre, information should be presented in a modern way.
- Revegetated Council Land should be legally protected against risk of future development.

Biodiversity hotspot

- Previous efforts to establish a ‘World Heritage Area’ failed because we were already too fragmented. Tamborine Mountain remains a ‘biodiversity hotspot’, which deserves acknowledgement as such. TM should aim to become a **Biosphere**.
- If possible, suitable land should be bought back by government for this purpose.
- A “significant tree” register needs to be created and made available to the public.
- A global policy (meaning covering the whole Mountain) to protect larger animals like mammals, large birds and large reptiles like land mullets and goannas is needed.
- Studies should show what impact Climate Change will have and how we can adjust.

Plastic-free

- **The Green Behind the Gold** profile does not mean a lot without a serious effort to reduce the use of disposable plastic. The final goal is a totally plastic-free environment.
- Clean drinking water should be made available without the need to buy plastic bottles (which should be prohibited).

Support for private landowners

- With most of the land being privately owned, support of landowners will be essential for successful management of the natural habitat. This includes an ‘Environmental Code of Conduct’, advice on ways to optimise wildlife habitat, support to allow the public to access private land in a responsible way (e.g. for the long walking track and/or nature-based activities), and efforts to remove specific weeds.
- Locals should be encouraged to enter **Land for Wildlife and Nature Refuge** programs.
- Pets should be restrained and legislation should help to contain the impact of domestic cats.
- Property owners, including local and state governments, should be required, at their own expense, to remove excessive amounts of invasive weeds, or risk being fined. Laws need to have ‘teeth’.

D. Relevant to locals:

Urban Planning Scheme

- TM deserves its own Town Plan, a section describing only, but comprehensively, planning of the local town.
- Contrary to the policy of considering all towns in the Shire equal, the policy should be to emphasise the strength of each town. The differences between suburbs is strength, not weakness.
- A very restrictive population growth policy is needed, based on educated guesses of the impact of population increase.
- Council needs to be strong enough, financially and politically, to stand up against inappropriate (illegal or unwanted) development, but presently benefits financially from subdivisions and development. Tamborine Mountain expects Council to clarify its position in this conflict.
- Housing affordability is a major issue. A policy should be defined outlining the acceptable number of dwellings, people and subdivisions, in order to allow young and less wealthy people to find a living space on the Mountain.

Local produce

- Locally grown and sold fruit and vegetables are good for health and for the environment. As a country town, we support anyone growing their own fruit and veggies. Local markets and green shed deserve ongoing support.

Light and energy supply

- Lack of street lighting is a major feature of the Mountain.
- We should provide small, downward pointing, low intensity lights on Gallery Walk and in Main Street at night.
- Promotion of renewable energy supply is important to locals, and good for the image/character of TM.
- A plan needs to be developed to increase production and use of renewable energy, to establish charging points for locals and visitors, a solar farm and public transport based on electric vehicles. The main power grid will more and more serve as a backup network. Water-driven and wind energy options need to be investigated.
- If new power lines are needed, they should be ‘underground’.

Water, sewerage, waste

- The Mountain’s drinking water supply comes from the aquifers, and collected from roofs. If well-regulated, this system is practical and sustainable. Some residents would prefer a reticulated water and sewerage system.
- Local supply from bores, needed as back up for roof water, should be organised by Council or businesses. Commercial Water Extraction should only be allowed for local supply.
- Our aquifers are presently at risk of depletion and contamination. A timeline should be established to audit sewer systems and to complete the transition to more environmentally acceptable waste water treatment solutions.
- If **sewage** is currently processed off the Mountain, then maybe a local sewage treatment plant is needed.
- The community should discuss with Council the ways in which waste is collected and charged, regular large waste kerbside pickups, green waste collection, soft plastic recycling, more flexible waste collection frequency and daily staffing of the tip.

Digital infrastructure

- Tamborine Mountain needs to be connected to state-of-the-art internet and mobile phone network.

Education

- With three primary schools, two high schools and two kindergartens, the Mountain is well serviced for primary and secondary education. Given the location on a mountain, with limited-capacity access roads, the local schools are mainly meant to service the local community; growing the schools for children from elsewhere is not a good idea. Others, such as Canungra residents, don’t agree with that.
- It should be considered how to make the Mountain attractive for people of **every** age group (especially 18 plus)