

SUMMARY OCTOBER 2019

Goal

The Blueprint process has clarified what the community perceives as the main problems of the community, and the way forward to improve the mountain over the next 12 years. Blueprint is NOT an organization, not even a goal in itself. It is only helping local persons, groups and government to make choices and take action on subjects that matter to the community.

Method, process

- All local residents were invited late 2018 for a community consultation where well over 100 people showed up to discuss process and input of the Blueprint. The TM Blueprint is 100 per cent transparent and community driven. All info is publicly available online.
- Late 2018 and early 2019 in a wide variety of methods the community was invited to give input to the Blueprint expressing the issues that mattered most to them. Over 400 submissions were received, verbally (meetings), by email, in writing and via online forms. Using an online questionnaire (also available in print) was filled out by over 250 people to assess the hundreds of topics that were raised.
- From May/June 2019 the community was informed via newspaper and Facebook articles, and ALL data, are publicly accessible (see www.visittamborinemountain.com.au/blueprint). In separate meetings Blueprint reps informed State MP Jon Krause, and the two local councilors and Mayor.
- Blueprint is non-scientific, but nevertheless gives an accurate impression of the vision of TM locals, despite the wide range of individual opinions. The response rate is exactly what is achieved in similar projects in bigger councils, often with millions of dollars of investments. Our investment was zero.

Outcomes

NATURE

1. The main reason for locals to live here its green, pristine environment and quaint, rural lifestyle. In general sharing this beauty with visitors is accepted, also because it brings economy and jobs to our town.
2. Guaranteeing local drinking water supply from the aquifers and rain is also a big issue, because of lack of sufficient regulation (for extraction, local and regional distribution) and sewerage leakage into the aquifer.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

3. Lack of public transport to a railway station at the Gold Coast, as well as local public transport (hop on, hop off), stand out as a major concern for the Mountain, for locals and visitors alike. With our State Member a deal was made to create an overview of failed efforts in the past, potential options for the future and an estimate of the user numbers and profiles. A sub ctee of the TMPA is working on this.



COMMUNITY

4. The issue of MMM zoning has major consequences for the functioning of the medical services, as well as potentially in art and culture, and maybe even in other industries. Blueprint raised the issues= after the local doctors raised it, and decisions have been postponed to January 2010.
5. An art/environmental centre, better swimming pool, further improvements of the library and better recycling facilities score high as priorities.



TOURISM

6. Gallery Walk is an eye-sore for business people and local residents alike Existing plans for an overhaul should be implemented.
7. The Green Behind the Gold' is a theme that is supported widely in the community. It should not only be a marketing slogan but also have a meaning in conservation terms. The Mountain should be an exemplary location to experience sustainable living in a high-quality, natural environment. Renewable energy, low-plastic policies and a focus on nature should be drivers for tourism policies.



ECONOMY/INFRASTRUCTURE

8. Without improvements in tourism management the impact of tourism will be unsustainable (better good roads, Gallery Walk Plan, Extended Long Road, parking facilities, traffic management at market days).
9. The proposed 'circular cycling/footpath' for school kids, locals and tourists is widely supported



GOVERNMENT

10. Our rates are twice as high as in the Gold Coast – they don't deliver value for money. 52% of respondents support the idea to move to a cheaper, and economically stronger Council (if possible), while 18 per cent disagrees and 30 per cent are neutral. 70 % don't care under which Council the Mountain resides, as long as our environment is protected, development is limited, and rates are cheaper.



Jaap Vogel