

**PAC MEETING- BYRON PARKLANDS (YELGUN) PROPOSAL****BYRON BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE- WEDNESDAY 1/2/12****NAME:** CLINTON HOOK**POSITION:** IN FAVOUR OF PROPOSAL

- For the purpose of clarity, I would like to make my position clear. I am strongly in favor of the Byron Parklands Proposal at Yelgun.

**MY REASONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- I am a practicing Social Worker and counselor who has worked within the Byron Shire for many years. My work in the Byron area and overseas has brought me in contact with the generic concerns of a broad range of demographic groups. It is with this in mind that I would like to offer the following reasons for my strong support of this proposal.

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

- Whilst I am not an Environmental Scientist, I do hold strong views on the importance of environmental sustainability. I have visited the property in question and have seen how many years of farming have taken their toll. I am encouraged by what I have seen and read and believe that those involved in the Byron Parklands Project have a clear understanding and commitment to the importance and need for environmental sustainability. To see that so much tree planting has already commenced is very encouraging. To read that many more activities have been proposed such as a native plant nursery, community garden and other bush regeneration activities makes me feel confident that this project has a broader environmental interest and commitment.
- I am encouraged by the fact that this proposal has undergone rigorous scrutiny by state government bodies prior to it recommending the passing of this proposal based on overall suitability for this area.

**PSYCHO/ SOCIAL:**

- A consistent theme that has emerged out of all the counseling and community work that I have done is that people yearn for diversity; not just for activities to engage in but to have access to different venues to experience them in. Contrary to the arguments put forward to centralize activity, I promote the notion that we need to have a diverse range of venues available to us as community stakeholders.
- Being able to participate in meaningful and sustainable activity is an intrinsic component of any robust regime when trying to improve the wellbeing of either individuals or a community as a whole. The Byron community has never been

short of creative ideas but where we have been sadly lacking is in having the resources to enable such creative potential to be realized in a wide variety of settings.

- Byron Parklands has the potential to be a place where community members and visitors will be able to meet and participate in a diverse range of cultural, educational and potentially vocational pursuits.
- We lack vocational opportunities big time in this area. Byron Parklands could if approved add to the vocational fabric of the area and will hopefully enable future employment and work experience opportunities for some people within our community. This would further add to our community's social and financial sustainability.
- Byron Parklands will provide many opportunities for knowledge sharing and skill transfer. The idea of community groups holding forums, conferences and general meetings is exciting let alone the possibility of groups from outside the shire coming and utilizing the venue for the same.
- Through a host of planned events and activities, Byron Parklands could be a place where people meet for events, conferences, workshops etc all of which could provide a greater sense of belonging and cultural depth. My belief is that this venue will promote and contribute to a greater level of social inclusion and engagement within our community. More of this would be a good thing. It is community participation, engagement and relationships that add to the strength and diversity of a community.
- I am hopeful that Byron Parklands will become a benchmark for venues promoting diversity in use whilst also promoting environmental sustainability and social and vocational participation.
- One thing that I am pretty sure of is that in time to come, we will be grateful of having Byron Parklands at our doorstep. I encourage people to be part of shaping the positive direction that this project could take rather than thwarting its very beginning.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND FOR LISTENING