

For reply please quote: SocPol/VB – TF/14/22084 – DOC/14/187372


SPRINGBROOK QLD 4213

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 11 November 2014 about the proposed Skyrail project in the Gold Coast Hinterland. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The Skyrail project is only a proposal at this stage. No formal application for the project has been made to the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (DNPRSR).

The development of privately-owned, low-impact, purpose-built ecotourism facilities on national parks must be in keeping with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Any ecotourism facility proposal on national parks would need to satisfy criteria as set out in the Act.

Any determination of whether a proposal will progress would be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration a range of factors including location, size and type of facility, ecological sustainability, destination fit, and viability. Public consultation is an important part of any development approval process. Should this proposal progress for consideration, you will have the opportunity to formally raise your concerns.

Information on assessment requirements can be found in the *Queensland Ecotourism Investment Opportunities Implementation Framework* and the *Best Practice Ecotourism Development Guidelines*. Both of these documents are readily available on DNPRSR's website at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au by clicking on (1) 'Commercial tourism on parks' and (2) 'Strategies and plans'.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier on this important matter and I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

KATE DAVIES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lucas Clarke

From: [REDACTED]@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2014 8:54 AM
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Cableway

Dear Premier,

Shortly your Government will receive an Initial Advice Statement from the proponents of the Gold Coast Skyride proposal. I would like you to say no to this proposal straight away. The last proposal by the same people had a signed petition of over 12,000 people against it. 90% of tourists surveyed, and many were surveyed, as they left the Purling Brook Lookout said they thought a cable car ride to Springbrook was not a good idea. We always get told how wonderful the Kuranda Skyrail is and how this proposal will mirror that one. There are many differences between Kuranda and Springbrook

Springbrook Vegetation is mostly Eucalypt Kuranda Rainforest

Springbrook high risk of fire Kuranda not

Springbrook is Water catchment Kuranda not

Springbrook has no reticulated water and sewerage Kuranda has both

Springbrook National Park World Heritage Area is only 2400 Hectares with the cablecar running through the middle of this small section. While Kuranda is on the edge of the 900,000 hectare Wet tropics World Heritage Area.

Springbrook has narrow road access for launch site. Kuranda Skyrail starts at a major city just off a highway.

Springbrook has no major tourist infrastructure. Kuranda has the Scenic Railway and proper township.

There will be threats to the World Heritage values that could easily be the tipping point for Springbrook remaining listed. Some of these threats are,

Construction of towers and Falls Station within the World heritage section of the park.

Construction of towers and stations and operation of cableway in the buffer and wildlife corridors adjacent to the WH area

Operation of helicopters at low altitude for up to 14 months within or within close vicinity of WH area

Operation of the cableway for an indefinite period involving, when operating at maximum capacity, gondolas moving in both directions along the cableway spaced 24 seconds apart

Here is a summary of the reasons why the Naturelink proposal failed. From Coordinator-General's Assessment Report

The increased fire hazard and dangers to public safety resulting from fire issue, land stability and potable water supply for the GCCC

Changes to existing fire management principles that are unsuitable for National Parks and World Heritage Conservation areas to accommodate the project.

The risk and impacts on flora and fauna in the National Park

The potential threat to the area's World Heritage values

Impediments to the issue of a lease in a National Park. This has been dealt with by your Government when you altered the NCA.

The proposal does not present any clear social or economic benefit to the local community of Springbrook or the Gold Coast Region.

As a Springbrook resident I am concerned about a number of things.

Far more truck movements to deliver water, food and to remove sewerage.

Last project had the Falls Station as completely self contained module.

3 Kms away from Forestry Road. 7,000 sq Metre Cafe and craft shops, their own walking track and lookout. All dollars to stay with operator.

Fewer drive tourists impacting on local cafes.


Visual amenity compromised.

Noise of machinery and cablecars.

We had a day last week when a helicopter was being used to deliver structures for the new Purling brook walking bridge. To think that this disruption could go for 14 months made a lot of locals understand that building things with helicopters is not a quick and painless exercise. The children at the local school could not concentrate and no work was done while the helicopter was flying.

Please consider this proposal very carefully before it progresses any further.

Regards,


Springbrook 4213
Qld.

For reply please quote: SocPol/VB – TF/14/22112 – DOC/14/187438

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]bigpond.com

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2014 about the proposed Skyrail project in the Gold Coast Hinterland. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The Skyrail project is only a proposal at this stage. No formal application for the project has been made to the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

The development of privately owned, low impact, purpose built ecotourism facilities on national parks must be in keeping with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Any ecotourism facility proposal on national parks would need to satisfy criteria set out in the Act.

A determination of whether a proposal will progress would be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration a range of factors including location, size and type of facility, ecological sustainability, destination fit and viability. Public consultation is an important part of any development approvals process. Should this proposal progress for consideration, you will have the opportunity to formally raise your concerns.

Information on assessment requirements can be found in the *Queensland Ecotourism Investment Opportunities Implementation Framework* and the *Best Practice Ecotourism Development Guidelines*. Both of these documents are readily available online.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier on this important matter. I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

KATE DAVIES
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lucas Clarke

From: The Premier <The.Premier@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2014 11:06 AM
Subject: RE: ' Dazzled By Ray Of Light '

From: Ashgrove Electorate Office [mailto:ashgrove@parliament.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2014 8:37 AM
To: Premier
Subject: FW: ' Dazzled By Ray Of Light '

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2014 7:46 AM
To: Ashgrove Electorate Office; Mudgeeraba Electorate Office; Mermaid Beach Electorate Office
Subject: ' Dazzled By Ray Of Light '

Dear Sirs & Madam

I am writing to you in reference to Paul Weston's article in the Gold Coast Bulletin publication today at Page 25 detailing a number of apparent recent email exchanges between yourselves concerning a new cable car proposal, between Mudgeeraba and Springbrook, being promoted by Mermaid Beach MP Ray Stevens ' the cable guy ' on behalf of a consortium of businessmen.

If the email exchanges do actually exist it is both embarrassing and disappointing to see first hand your respective abilities to trivialize (presumably in an attempt at misplaced political humour) what is a serious issue which will directly impact on residents in the region and involve an already fragile environment.

My wife and I have a particular interest in this proposal as we reside on acreage at [redacted] in the hinterland. In principle we are unable to see any social or environmental benefit from this proposal (as with previous proposals) which is unashamedly purely commercially motivated.

I am certain there are many people who will take an interest in this proposal and should it gain any traction will as has happened in the past ' vote with their feet '.

In the meantime may I respectfully suggest that as politicians you leave the humor in situations like this to those who do it for a living.

Regards

[redacted]
Sent from my iPad

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