

## **Island Quarry Reserve R140104 - OVERVIEW**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Island Quarry Reserve, otherwise known as “iQ”, is managed by the Island Quarry Association Incorporated (iQ Inc) – a community based association which, on 18 April 1997, was appointed by the Minister as Reserve Trustee - since 1 July 2018, known as Crown Land Manager. Island Quarry Inc. is made up of its members, friends & volunteers from our local community. iQ Inc’s vision is to create the Island Quarry Arts & Cultural Centre, a community facility to showcase and promote the art, culture, environment and heritage of our region.

Since its appointment as manager, iQ Inc has achieved a long history of infrastructure construction & development progress. The Trust has applied for & obtained all the required planning approvals to develop the Reserve, including preparing a Plan of Management; undertaking a rezoning, s138 road and s68 on-site effluent treatment system approvals; and obtaining unanimous delegated Development Approval from Byron Council.

Further details are available upon request (and are previously supplied)

- iQ Reserve approved Plan of Management
- iQ Reserve approved DA
- iQ Reserve history of development approval progress,
- iQ Inc support letters from Recent Regional Cultural Fund application, and
- iQ Inc committee / iQ Reserve Crown Land Manager bios

Simultaneously, iQ Inc has remediated and revegetated the site, completed road access (95%) and security infrastructure, and installed wastewater treatment and solar power systems. The Trust has also, over many years, worked closely with Byron Shire Council on planning for adjacent developments including the Regional Sports/Cultural Centre, Councils Roads & Bikeway network and with respect to major neighbouring developments. Over past years the iQ Reserve Trust has facilitated use of the reserve by a diverse range of community associations & individuals for a wide range of cultural activities & functions, from community gardens to workshops, live performances to weddings, film screenings to hosting employment projects and numerous cultural events and ceremonies, including:

- 4yr Community Employment Project with FACS
- 1st community gardens in the Byron shire
- 2 week film location shoot for the TV series with Matchbox Pictures
- Telstra Corporate Awards dinner
- Steiner School orchestra national tour
- Flickerfest International Short Film Festival national tour
- Reconciliation/Corroboree Day with Arakwal & Bundjalung Elders & local community
- Uncle Youth Camp & the Pathways to Manhood Camp
- Fukushima Fundraiser with 111 International Drummers Performance
- various local performances and film shoots
- numerous cultural ceremonies held by local & international First Nations people

## **CURRENT**

The following is a general outline of the Trust's activities undertaken and proposed on the reserve, with reference to our background, current situation & future plans.

### **Activities**

Notwithstanding that limited public access provisions currently apply to the Island Quarry while some key deferred DA consent conditions are finalised, some private activities and functions such as outdoor weddings, ceremonies, receptions, small workshops & film shoots continue to be held on the Reserve, subject to application & approval by the Trust.

iQ Inc has also continued to assist the community by covering insurance for 100's of events on & off the Reserve.

iQ Inc also continues to assist locals by providing supervision of Mutual Obligation activities & Corrective Service obligations, and training/experience in sustainability, arts & the trades.

### **Planning & Development**

iQ Inc has recently received CRIFP funding to complete its only outstanding deferred consent requirements of road access to the reserve,

To complete construction of the main driveway access from Ewingsdale Rd roundabout, iQ Inc met with council on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to finalise access road-works, bike path route and earth-bund landscaping as per Council's approval. **We are awaiting councils response to our shared financial contributions to complete the integrated Council pedestrian/cycleway with our approved S138 driveway plans.**

The Trust is also pursuing additional funding for the reserves development through various sources. After being encouraged to apply for funding through the Regional Cultural Fund in late 2018, and attending a number of meetings with Don Page, iQ Inc was unfortunately unsuccessful in its application to fund the immediate implementation & construction of the entire approved DA.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the Trust submitted a Community Building Partnerships application for funding of an office/meeting room shed. Further funding rounds and partnerships are continually being pursued. **iQ Inc was successful with ait's CBP-2020 \$16,680 grant.**

Given the above progress on its current goals, the Trust is commencing the next phase of the site's development by working towards increasing utilisation of the site through enhancement of the reserve's infrastructure and facilities.

## **FUTURE PLANS MOVING FORWARD**

All the above work has been undertaken for the purpose of achieving the Trust's long term vision for the development of the Reserve. From its initial focus on the environmental rehabilitation and restoration of the Island Quarry, the Trust is aiming to create a Community Arts & Environment Park through our unique Reserve Trust management model, which will allow the community and the environment to benefit through the efficiently coordinated and integrated participation of a diverse grouping of interests and activities.

The focus of the Trusts future plan is to implement the approved Development Application, including the following key components:

- Ongoing regeneration and rehabilitation of the site
- Construction of:
  - Office, meeting room & cafe building (**to commence approx Sept 2021 when the builder is available**)
  - Eco-business Incubator building, comprising of 8x office spaces for the provision of business, education and training facilities
  - 5x Affordable Cabins for eco tourism activities and community recreation
  - 3x Artist Studios for artists in residence, exhibition space & workshops
  - A performance stage for cultural events & activities including: music, theatre & film events with markets and sculpture park
  - Affordable eco-camping facility with shower & toilet blocks
  - Recycling & green waste facilities

iQ Inc are also currently working on identifying opportunities to enhance visitor experience, site usage & improve financial returns for the iQ Reserve. These opportunities can be addressed through the provision of elements of some of the project components outlined above.

These plans assist the ability to improve returns for the reserve via the use of these facilities will ensure that the Reserve manager can deliver a better reserve experience for current users while attracting a wider user base.

The Island Quarry Reserve is an important element of the north coast's Crown Land reserve system. As Crown Land Manager, iQ Inc shares a common vision with the community for the reserve's development as an environmentally and socially sustainable multi-function cultural facility that benefits locals, the wider regional population and national and international visitors. With successful funding applications in partnership with the continuing commitment from the Reserve Manager and ongoing involvement from the broader community, the Reserve will continue to evolve as a unique facility that will remain a legacy for the community in perpetuity.

**The Reserve has recently planted over 50 bush-tucker trees with an Arakwal person to create educational Arakwal bush-tucker walks on the Reserve with the local custodians.**

The Trust looks forward to a full re-opening of the Reserve to the public in the near future with an open-day, once all consent conditions for public events are completed, including the impending consolidation of new roundabout access coordinated with the Council sports fields & future planned private neighbouring developments.

**The past 2 years notwithstanding the Covid -19 impacts for the past 13mths, has seen iQ Reserve Crown Land Managers have:**

- **Achieve a negotiated outcome to finalise it's roadworks/driveway access integration with Byron Council's pedestrian/cycleway.**
- **Planted an Arakwal educational Bush-tucker garden walk.**
- **Hosted a pre-Splendour In The Grass function with a local business operator.**
- **Supported the endeavours of arts & community groups activities with insurance & advice.**
- **Assisted numerous community members meet their WfD & WDO commitments.**
- **Hosted Australia's leading annual International Short Film Festival local tour.**
- **In process with a request to create a community cooperative gardens for food security.**
- **In process of organising a NAIDOC Week planting day with Arakwal elder Delta Kay; 1100 bushfood trees on iQ Reserve.**

We look forward to any feedback or questions.

Warm Regards,  
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