

[REDACTED]  
To:

[REDACTED]  
[Major Projects](#)

Subject:

Submission re Byron Bay Design Guide

Date:

[REDACTED]

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### **Comments on Byron Design Guide (Draft)**

I understand the requirement to have a 'palette' of materials/colours/aesthetic for new works, so that over time there will a clean, clear look over the whole town centre. Further, the document says that its NOT a plan for pedestrians/cyclists. YET it does provide very detailed maps of what could be done in very specific places in terms of planting.

This seems to be the wrong order of priority.

Byron is not a friendly town to pedestrians or cyclists. Fixing this need to be the main priority.

It is far more important to properly map the flows of people and cyclists along the roads, crossing the roads and sharing the roads in a safe way for all. The vegetation, benches and bins will follow.

Importantly I could not find a reference to the bus stop on the western side of the train line. All buses now stop here so that is an important source/destination for pedestrian movements.

(And on this point has there been consultation with users of the local buses as to how well that bus stop serves people, particularly elderly or with poor mobility? Is another stop needed in town for local busses ?)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 18 December 2022, 5:59PM

Receipt number: 7

Related form version: 2

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

We need lots of street trees

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: **7 December 2022, 9:42PM**

Receipt number: **1**

Related form version: **1**

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

**Looks fantastic. Great work. I would implement as fast as you can to get the trees and town looking even better.**

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 10 December 2022, 2:48PM

Receipt number: 2

Related form version: 1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

This is all great, and desperately needed in the to end the ad hoc band aid solutions we have acquired across decades of poor decision making and implementation. The tree planting program is fantastic, a long overdue for health and amenity. Great to see council starting to act on environment and climate in this area. Let's get a proper tree management program though - too little maintenance and protection across the shore over the last few year leading to massive canopy loss. Big question - why has this level of study and resolution not been applied to Mullumbimby? The ad hoc and poorly planned streetscape works have been and continue to occur - go look at Tincogan st pedestrian crossing and compare the levels of consideration from this report. Mullumbimby has had an increase in activity to rival the percentage increase in Byron over the last few years, yet no attention, upgrades, or infrastructure to support it. Let's make this shire wide rather than Byron centric. When is the Mullumbimby design guide (to this standard) being completed? And our other delaminated major centres for that matter. Get it right everywhere - stop wasted funding on bad projects

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 11 December 2022, 3:54PM

Receipt number: 3

Related form version: 1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

its high time we dealt with our own waste.

<https://www.replas.com.au/>

Lets create this possibility here in the region for the Northern Rivers

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 12 December 2022, 10:16PM

Receipt number: 4

Related form version: 1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Lots and lots of trees, Bangalow palms, around town and in all roundabouts, trees that attract more birds, different types of birds,

Create permaculture gardens, food streets, areas to sit and talk, where live music can be played, courtyards that are made up of rain forest trees, with sitting areas in it, etc.... All future buildings to be built in Queensland style, so as to retain the country town feel....

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 12 December 2022, 11:02PM

Receipt number: 5

Related form versions: 1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Great finally, liveability + showcasing the Byron CBD so it might live up to the beauty of our immediate geography. A cool haven away from the heat of the coast, highways and roads a pleasant experience for ones' shopping and errands, or even just exploring. Integrating pedestrians and cyclists into the landscapes, and creating spaces where one might linger, nooks and crannies along the way with a palette of natural grasses, shrubs and trees. Benches to sit on, wider footpaths at different points all of which will encourage people (locals and tourists) to not only stay and enjoy solace from the spring/summer heat, or shelter from the rain. It's a natural step to take after the completion of the bypass siphoned off through-traffic and buses. I'm surprised it's taken so long! Great work, I look forward to seeing the results.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 12 January 2023, 10:21AM

Receipt number: 9

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

We don't need more trees we need more parking and better beach access around main beach and Clark's beach. Also the lack of vehicle emergency access to the beaches is poor considering how many beach incidents we have. Also more play grounds near Clark's beach. The money would be better spent sorting out the towns drainage problem. As for cyclists why don't you run a bike and pedestrian path up the old rail line from the station to the southern end of bypass near byron music - this would separate cars and bikes.



# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 12 January 2023, 8:33PM

Receipt number: 10

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

More greenery is great, but it looks like some of it will affect traffic flow and parking, which is a big no for this town! Traffic flow has finally improved because of the bypass and is now manageable, so any plans to put more trees or green spaces in the middle of the roads to restrict traffic will just put us backwards. Also parking is now hard to find since tourists have returned post Covid, so please don't reduce parking spots. Otherwise the designs look great and I commend the council for its efforts in improving the town centre. Just don't make it so pedestrian friendly that it restricts traffic flow for locals and tourists trying to get around.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 13 January 2023, 9:20AM

Receipt number: 11

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

More vegetation everywhere is fantastic. Less traffic congestion (the roundabouts are unworkable in Lawson street ...too close together.

Reduce footpath dining chairs and tables and placement of sandwich boards etc by businesses everywhere on our pavements it's out of control. In some places like Fletcher street it's impossible to walk through pavements cluttered by chairs and tables eg bang bang (a whole corner of Byron street and Fletcher), Kombo, Dip and others all the way to the surf club. Johnson street is the same. Try that on a mobility scooter. In some places we can't even access the footpath from the road i.e. where we parked our car... access to the pavement from the car is blocked by diners (hunky dorey kombo for example) need more benches for the public to use on footpaths rather than businesses.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 13 January 2023, 1:09PM

Receipt number: 12

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Please tell me you are not going to close the Main Street, I do not want another Gold Coast here. We are just starting to get family's holidaying here, family spend money here, party goers don't, they spend money at the bottle shops and that's it. you close the Main Street we will end up like the Gold Coast. People will drink in the Main Street, which means fights, shops being smashed it is not a good look and then family's will stop coming here because too violent. Older locals like driving through the Main Street than up to the main beach. DO NOT STOP THEM FROM DOING THIS!!!! We are sooo against closing the Main Street, whether it be Jonson st of Lawson st from being closed. You already closed Jonson st for the markets in which us locals are against but you won't listen to us. Please please don't close the Main Street

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: **13 January 2023, 9:41PM**

Receipt number: **13**

Related form version: **2**

Name



Email



Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

**Byron Shire need a full time crew with machines maintaining the beaches dune and drains**

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 14 January 2023, 8:38AM

Receipt number: 14

Related form version: 2

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

**Make parking prohibitive for tourists and put in a regular commuter bus from Suffolk to Sunrise via the Pass and town. It should run every 15 minutes like in a ski resort town. This would reduce pressure on our roads and access to the beaches. This summer was ridiculous and dangerous.**

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 14 January 2023, 11:10AM

Receipt number: 15

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Keep it natural .

Johnson st plans have already caused a 3 level concrete jungle .

Just hope the trashy tourists want to stay in these apartments to free up the houses for longterm local renters !!

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 15 January 2023, 1:18PM

Receipt number: 17

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

I do not support this plan. This seems to be another exercise in bureaucratic justification at the expense of ratepayers. Council's attempts at town beautification up until now have been minimalist and pathetic, totally lacking in maintaining the character of Byron Bay. The infrastructure is tired and outdated. I do not support the Master plan at all. I feel that this plan is an underhanded way of moving the Master plan forward. I also don't believe that ratepayers' funds should be used to improve the Byron experience for tourists. This plan is designed to move and keep the markets in the town center, which I do not support.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: **15 January 2023, 3:16PM**

Receipt number: **18**

Related form version: **2**

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

**I support the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide in its entirety. This guide will open up opportunities for grant funding from Federal & State Governments. It also compliments the Byron Bay Masterplan Strategy and vision for the Byron Bay CBD.**



# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: **15 January 2023, 8:34PM**

Receipt number: **19**

Related form version: **2**

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

How about cleaning and dredging the drains in Ocean Shores to prevent our houses from being flooded again? Instead of wasting our rates on plants and seating ? Ridiculous, there will be a class action if we all flood again. I have sent in email after email and photos and not one response.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 16 January 2023, 12:15PM

Receipt number: 20

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

I find it disappointing that there is only one corner tree proposed for the Jonson St area outside the Great Northern hotel despite numerous offers from the owners to work with council for trees in ground or in pots  
Likewise the same is said for Lateen Lane that is currently a disgrace of rubbish and deteriorated street art. Again offers to assist with greenery is provided.

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 16 January 2023, 12:56PM

Receipt number: 16

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Firstly, I applaud the concept and 'vision' and certainly support greening and landscaping design.

Too often though, the 'vision' in reality, doesn't match the pretty pdf's and DA designs.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my views. These are my thoughts based on the document and from a resident who walks about town 'a lot' rather than drives (and from someone that takes an interest in urban design). In no particular order:

1) Maintenance - a great landscaping plan, even if executed as per the vision, is only as good as the ongoing care and maintenance. This should be incorporated into any initial design regarding choices. Often these projects are installed with great excitement and ribbon cutting and the existing garden staff have the burden of looking after. So my question would be Q: What is the maintenance plan?

2) Tree/plant choice - I'm sure professional advice has been integrated into the suggested Council plantings. The key is to avoid options that drop leaves and berries/pods and are suited to the local environment. Also, suited to the physical space proposed and their ability to cope with shade or harsh western sun\*

\*Too often in DA's before Council, professionally prepared landscaping reports never eventuate. Often, it seems, plants are substituted and appear to be inappropriate for the location and space. Not sure if there is ever a check as apart of the final approval at completion, to ensure landscaping

complies with the DA??

In my opinion .. but happy to be corrected by those with a greener thumb than me. As an example given it is a brand new development, the thorned bougainvillea planted at the new Jonson Lane, to eventually create a green arbour, is unusual choice for a public walkway. So too, the larger trees on their Browning St frontage that seem to be planted too close to the road and gutter and may cause issues .. not to mentioned the tree ferns planted in full sun.

3) Street Furniture / Seating - I'm sure this has been taken into consideration, although I haven't seen it applied in areas such as the new interchange. Any furniture, long bench seating or landscape hard walls, should consider the damage skateboarders cause as these features are very attractive.

Some of the current positions for seating in the plan, don't seem logical and maybe even a little random (some rethinking needed). It would be nice though to ensure seating is presented as distinct 'enclaves' to take a break from downtown Byron and places along the beachfront. Apex Park gets lots of attention without a practical solution for the number of people, so it would be great to include a long term fix. As long as the areas don't become rubbish points, which is another point, it makes sense to link seating and bins (and plan for regular clearing).

4) Pedestrian meet Cars - any landscaping design should review the likely movement of pedestrians crossing from one side of the road to another. There are many examples where people just walk through gardens; because they are lazy yes, but the current landscaping layout allows it. Landscaping should direct foot traffic to specific crossing points.

There are also examples where landscaping obstructs vision for drivers and pedestrians to see each other e.g. the western side of Byron and Fletcher intersection. So key areas where this happens should be planted back from corner and pedestrian safety zones included in design.

5) Hard surfaces / paths / WSUD - I'm a big fan of softer

surfaces to allow water run off and the proposed WSUD. Again, I'm fearful the vision and reality are not aligning. Recent heavy rain highlighted again the drainage issues in Byron.

There are a lot of great images in the document but recent Council work doesn't reflect this is currently important. \*\* take a look at the hard concrete surface footpath by Council along Browning just up from Spell boutique. It floods every time it rains, so pedestrians and bike riders end up walking across the grass creating a muddy mess.

6) Street art - can there be some integration of colour as Byron is a vibrant place. Perhaps a competition for a local artist to add murals on key public and where possible on private building walls, that showcase the vibrancy and complements the landscaping.

That's it. Thank you again for the hard work already out in. Do what is practical, long term and adds value.

[REDACTED]

# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 18 January 2023, 10:04PM

Receipt number: 21

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Re User Experience/ Access and Movement...

I can't see anything that mentions easier and safer access for People With A Disability.

Issues: stores are increasingly placing clothing rails on the footpath, right on the verge, many businesses have A Frame Signs littering the footpaths ( these were once banned by BSC. Now? ), cafés are offering footpath dining next to the road, not adjacent to their business - which means staff are frequently crossing the footpath with hot food and drinks.

These are all a nightmare for anyone with access issues, including those with walking frames, wheel chair users, people with limited vision or even those walking with young children. Our streets have become obstacle courses. Throwing in a few shared chairs at this point would only add to the clutter!

Re Boosting Vegetation. In my personal experience, driving a small and low/ standard car the Central reservation plantings are already too high in much of town. If I try to turn right into the Lord Byron Resort, approaching from the Southbound lane of Jonson Street - I can't see the oncoming traffic due to the height of the plantings. Probably fine if you're in an SUV, Ute or Bus?

Same goes for some of the current roadside plantings. Short pedestrians and children can barely be seen by drivers in some spots due to inappropriate plantings. Crossing Fletcher Street from Dolphin Office to Lifeline is one such spot from memory.

Please, please plant lots of evergreen, shady trees, as many places as you can - especially above seats. For inclusivity, please install seats and benches with back supports and arm rests - in soft, recycled materials or timber. No more metal please - like the hot, round tables alongside Railway Park.

We do need a more Pedestrian friendly CBD, we need adult bike riders and skateboarders off the footpaths. We 100% need eBikes off our footpaths! I was nearly mowed down by a Teen late last year - young enough to legally ride a bicycle on the footpath - but an eBicycle, at full speed? Surely not? I have an Invisible Disability but was also in a sling with a fractured arm and only just got out of his way in time. Someone else may not have been able to move in time.

Let's offer improved, inclusive access to the CBD. Increase correctly designed and dimensioned Mobility Parking Spots and don't have council place large, traffic signs on the footpath right next to them! The one outside of the ex Backpackers Village, Jonson Street has a nature strip sign that limits the accessibility of any front seat passenger in the vehicle parked there. Please remember it's not always the driver that is the Mobility Badge Holder, that requires the wider access to safely leave or enter a vehicle. This sign, aimed at drivers, could be in the central reservation - where drivers could clearly see it.

Good Luck with the next stage of this Design Guide! I hope, with the community's input we can look forward to creating a more welcoming and inclusive CBD.



# Byron Bay Design Guide



Submitted on date: 19 January 2023, 11:37AM

Receipt number: 22

Related form version: 2

Name

Email

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

Bicycle Parking Hoops should be increased especially as eBike numbers increase.

This will encourage their use and result in less 4-wheeled vehicle congestion.

Bicycle Parking could also often be associated with tree shaded bench seating, to encourage a more restful and convenient experience.

Thought is needed to designing an easy transition of Jonson Street to being a Mall from Lawson to Byron Streets.

This could be on one or more nights per week, and also be regarded in the short term as an experiment and study of successful use.

Byron Bay township has lost its old "vibe", but we could establish a new niche, so the town can re-live, from a cyclist/pedestrian viewpoint, at least.



# Byron Bay Design Guide



**BYRON**  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL

Submitted on date: **19 January 2023, 11:51AM**

Receipt number: **23**

Related form version: **2**

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Provide your feedback about the Draft Byron Bay Design Guide here.

#### **Suggestions.**

**1. Keep 3 storey height limit on all building in Byron Bay and the Byron shire.**

**2. Make Byron more beautiful by adding more trees, also creating more Shade and encouraging different types of native Birds. [Mullumbimby is so visually appealing because of the Bangalow palms] so Byron needs to be just as visually Beautiful, Trees and plants gives a relaxing calming effect.**

**3. The Roundabouts.**

**On Ewingsdale at the BP service station, and the large roundabout on the other side of the HWY towards Bangalow and Tweed Heads, and the roundabout near the bus terminal, they all need to be beautified with Bangalow palms, Pandanus palm or /and magnificent Cuban Palms , so as you enter Byron it would give a positive lasting impression of how beautiful Byron Bay looks [NO ART INSTALLATIONS as they end up being very tacky and a embarrassment]**

**4. Put trains back on the rails, [enhance the Byron Railway station with plants etc] , so worker who can not afford to live in Byron Bay, can come to work in a no stress affordable way and tourist can see and visit the other towns and villages in the Byron Shire as 2.2 million visit Byron each year.. This would also Reduce the amount of traffic that comes to Byron on a daily basis.**

**5. Permaculture**

**As our world is changing and food prices are going up etc, we as individuals need to grow more food .**

**The land next to the new Taf and could be used as community gardens with a Hall similar to Ewingsdale Hall as Cavanbah is not affordable. This Hall with a kitchen , creating meals from the garden, it would in walking distance for Sunrise beach residents and could be used for permaculture lessons , dance , yoga, art etc**

**Another area for community garden is the south end of Jacaranda Drive, it has 3 fences so it would only require one fence, to create a community garden.**

**Create food streets in Byron town ...**