

MAJOR PROJECTS

4.1. Banyan Park and Lions Park Beautification Project

Prepared by: Richard Wilkes, Acting Manager Project Delivery

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023

Executive Summary:

In February 2023 Council commenced a community engagement process for the Banyan and Lions Park Beautification project, the aim of this engagement process was to inform and shape the project design outcomes and deliverables based on the perspective, needs and aspirations of the Tully community.

Community engagement was undertaken in two phases with preliminary concept sketches being developed over the course of the initial engagement process identifying two specific design options.

This report presents for Council consideration the Community Engagement Summary Report for Banyan and Lions Park Beautification Project and associated recommendations.

Recommendation:

"That Council:

- 1. Thank the community for their significant engagement throughout the concept design process;**
 - 2. Note the outcomes highlighted in the Engagement Summary Report for the Banyan and Lions Park Beautification project;**
 - 3. Endorse concept design Option 1 with a phased delivery:**
 - Short Term Priorities (1-2 Years)**
 - i. Tully Gumboot Plaza**
 - ii. Tully Gumboot Interpretive Node**
 - iii. Parking Upgrades**
 - iv. Iconic Entry Signage**
 - v. Avenues of Trees**
 - vi. Significant Tree Feature Lighting**
 - Medium Term Priorities (3-5 Years)**
 - i. New Bus Shelter**
 - ii. Unisex Amenities**
 - iii. DDA Compliant Access**
 - iv. District Level Playspace (Play Ground and Scooter Track)**
 - v. Park Furniture**
 - vi. Soft & Hard Landscaping**
 - 4. Acknowledge the Queensland Government for the W4Q funding for the short term priority projects;**
 - 5. Request the Chief Executive Officer seek funding from the State and Federal Governments for the medium term priority projects;**
 - 6. Request the Chief Executive Officer ensure that the detailed design development phase of the Banyan Park Beautification project results in an overall net increase in precinct car parking; and**
 - 7. Note that the detailed design phase will involve working directly with adjacent business and property owners to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered throughout detailed design."**
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Background:

Cassowary Coast Regional Council is upgrading Banyan Park, including Lions Park, located at the entrance of Tully.

During Phase One, Council engaged with the community to gain an understanding of the community's ideas, aspirations, and opportunities for Lions and Banyan Park, to inform the design phase of the project.

Phase two presented the community with two designs created based on the community's feedback in phase one to gain an understanding of the preferred concept design and its features. These concept designs have key themes that are recognisable by the community and encourage visitors to spend time in Tully.

Public consultation took place from 28 July 2023 to 11 August 2023. Council wanted to understand the community's views on the proposed concept designs for the key features and layout of Banyan Park.

Council undertook consultation with the Tully community to capture their feedback on the proposed design options. The community's feedback was received through Council's Your Say Online platform and through paper surveys during the Tully Show and at the Tully Library. To advise the community of the design phase of consultation, Council undertook a variety of engagement activities through the following platforms:

- Radio advertisements over a two-week period;
- Radio interview with Councillor Millwood;
- Facebook Boosted Post which received a total reach of 7,404, 67 likes, 16 shares, and 55 comments; and
- Information in the Tully Library.

The Banyan Beautification Your Say site, saw 298 contributions from 265 contributors, which is a considerable engagement outcome for this project. The site saw a total of 2,989 views from 1,633 individual visitors.

Two proposed designs were created that incorporate feedback provided by the community. The survey offered the community the opportunity to vote on their preferred design for the future of Banyan Park. 431 survey responses were received online and through the paper surveys. The paper survey was input into an Excel spreadsheet.

Question One – What is your preferred design?

A total of 297 contributions were received with option one receiving 236 votes and option two receiving 61 votes.

To ensure Council understood why community members voted for their preferred design, respondents could provide additional feedback through open questions. This potentially provides Council with information to understand the drawcard features and how the design can be further improved to suit community members' needs.

Council also asked the following questions:

- Question Two - What do you like about your chosen design?
- Question Three - What would you improve?

Where respondents voted for option one, key themes which arose from the responses as to why they voted for this design included:

- Featured and central playground
- Large open space
- Safer play area
- Attractive and appealing entry
- Layout caters for community and travellers.
- Kid and family friendly
- Modern

When asked, how option one design could be improved respondents said:

- Adding shade over the playground for weather
- Additional on-street parking spaces
- Long vehicle / caravan parking added
- Improve bus shelter roof weather friendly

- Addition of lighting / security cameras
- Additional undercover seating & BBQ Areas
- Keep all trees
- Addition of a pump track or waterplay

Where respondents voted for option two, key themes which arose from the responses as to why they voted for this design included:

- Affordable / cost effective design
- Features more undercover area
- Transit centre remaining
- Additional parking
- Fit for purpose design

When asked, how option two design could be improved respondents said:

- Remove charging stations
- Additional parking for caravans
- Better playground
- Addition of security/lighting

An engagement session was held at the Tully Show on 28 July 2023. In total 88 people completed the paper survey during this period.

A total of 88 contributions were received with option one receiving 40 votes and option two receiving 48 votes.

Option One Findings:

Key themes which arose as to why respondents supported this design included:

- More play space / bigger area
- Larger playground
- Safer

Themes for Option One improvements were:

- Lighting
- No sand in playground
- Playground undercover from the weather

Option Two Findings:

Key themes which arose as why respondents supported this design included:

- Bus area is efficient
- Less change / effective

No key themes, or similar feedback was provided, however comments that were made included:

- Clean gardens with low maintenance
- Parking
- More inviting playground
- Prioritise toilets and bins

During the engagement period, the Communications and Engagement Team also received several submissions with feedback for the project via email and the Tully Library. This feedback has been captured below:

- The huge raintrees located in the park are seen to be one of the most attractive transit centres in North Queensland.
- Many people are saying 'if it's not broken, why try to fix it'. The building is a solid structure requiring a makeover.
- The iconic raintrees in the park should not be harmed by a play area covering the large root system which will compromise the health of the trees.

- The proposed barbecue area shows a slanting roof open to the elements rendering it unusable in our climate.
- At what cost to safety will many of these changes present with one being, dangerous car parking on busy Butler Street; no provision for suitable parking of caravans as well as the EV Charging Station totally limiting caravans from parking in that area.
- The not to scale artist's impressions give false indications of room available to accommodate all the proposed facilities, leaving a misleading impression to vote by.
- Additional cover to protect facilities from the weather.
- Option Two is easier and less expensive.
- Increase parking within the area.
- Option Two is easy to drive around but needs more undercover areas for relaxing.
- Needs an undercover section for children within the play space.
- Option Two highlights a great bus shelter for the elderly and easy to collect people.
- Option One has a children's playground but needs more parking and BBQ areas with shelter space.
- Addition of traditional owners' artwork.
- Disabled-friendly park
- Option One design is family-inclusive and the playground is more exciting to look out for tourism. Options of improvement include separate toilet facilities for the bus/park and fencing in the playground with seating for parents/kids.
- Consideration for shop parking for the corner businesses near the park. Do not take away existing parking.

44 contributions through the Tully Library captured 13 votes for Option One and 31 votes for Option 2.

The feedback provided from both designs highlighted a key theme relating to parking and the EV charging stations. A total of 27 contributors gave feedback on the parking with 6 contributions having direct feedback towards the EV charging stations.

- Design Option One to relocate the transit centre received - 289 votes.
- Design Option Two to refurbish the existing transit centre received - 140 votes

The current financial year budget available for the delivery of these design options is \$450,000, Project cost to date are \$34,510.82 leaving a balance of \$415,489.18 with the Funding deadline for works to be completed by 30th June 2024, it is therefore proposed to undertake a phased project delivery over the short and medium term as detailed below.

Short Term Priorities (1 - 2 Years)

- Tully Gumboot Plaza
- Tully Gumboot Interpretive Node
- Parking Upgrades
- Iconic Entry Signage
- Avenues of Trees
- Significant Tree Feature Lighting

Medium Term Priorities (3- 5 Years)

- New Bus Shelter
- Unisex Amenities
- DDA Compliant Access
- District Level Playspace (Play Ground and Scooter Track)
- Park Furniture
- Soft & Hard Landscaping

Based on the outcomes of the community consultation for the Banyan Park Beautification Project it is recommended that Council endorse the staged delivery of Option 1.

Council received a petition from Mr Callan Marneros titled 'Banyan Park Upgrade (Tully) CCRC' on 13 September 2023. Officers met with the principle petitioner to understand the concerns with Option 1 which sought to amend the concept design to not remove any of the existing parking on Butler, Murray and Hort Street.

The Options considered in this report are concept designs which identify key features. The detailed design phase will involve working directly with adjacent business and property owners to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered throughout detailed design. To provide further surety Officers recommend that Council resolve to request the Chief Executive Officer ensure that the detailed design development phase of the Banyan Park Beautification project results in an overall net increase in precinct car parking.

Link to Corporate Plan:

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE - OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our Aspirations

We are enjoying sustainable and responsible growth and development, with plans being actioned to deliver sufficient infrastructure, housing and community facilities, and safe, well-connected places and spaces that support and enhance quality of life for our community.

Our Objectives

- I3 - Encourage greater use of active transport with improved paths and cycleways Our Infrastructure Our Built Environment One Coast: Cassowary Coast 25
- I6 - Design and maintain attractive streetscapes
- I7 - Provide quality playgrounds, parks and community spaces
- I8 - Provide sustainable asset management

Consultation:

Council has engaged with the community to gain an understanding of the community's ideas, aspirations, and opportunities for Lions and Banyan Park, to inform the design phase of the project. Two phases of community engagement have been undertaken. Phase One 3 February 2023 to 3 April 2023, Phase 2 consultation took place from 28 July 2023 to 11 August 2023.

The engagement undertaken in the Banyan and Lions Park Beautification Project, followed the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework. The IAP2 Framework serves several important purposes and provides Council with feedback from our impacted or interested community members. The IAP2 framework is designed to enhance the quality of public participation in decision-making processes and to promote transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. Here are the main purposes of community engagement following the IAP2 framework:

- **Informed Decision-Making:** One of the primary purposes of community engagement is to ensure that decision-makers have access to a wide range of perspectives, data, and information. Engaging the community helps decision-makers, including Councillors make more informed choices that take into account the needs and preferences of the public.
- **Building Trust:** Engaging the community fosters trust between government agencies, organizations, and the public. When people feel that their voices are heard and their input is considered, they are more likely to trust the decision-making process.
- **Inclusivity:** The IAP2 framework emphasises inclusivity by ensuring that a diverse range of voices is heard, including those who may be traditionally marginalised or underrepresented. Inclusivity promotes social equity and fairness in decision-making.
- **Transparency:** Community engagement under the IAP2 framework promotes transparency in decision-making processes. It helps ensure that the public understands the reasons behind decisions and the factors that influence them.
- **Accountability:** Engaging the community creates a mechanism for holding decision-makers accountable for their choices. When decisions are made with public input, decision-makers can be held responsible for taking the community's views into consideration.
- **Enhancing Public Ownership:** Engaging the community helps build a sense of ownership among the public regarding the decisions and outcomes. When people have had a say in the process, they are more likely to support and take responsibility for the results.
- **Improved Quality of Decisions:** By involving the community, decision-makers can tap into the collective wisdom and expertise of the public, leading to better, more well-rounded decisions.

- **Long-term Sustainability:** Engaging the community can contribute to the long-term sustainability of projects and policies. When the public is involved in decision-making, it is more likely that the outcomes will align with community values and needs, increasing the likelihood of success and sustainability.

Legal Implications (Statutory basis, legal risks):

Nil.

Human Rights Act 2019 - Considerations

The *Human Rights Act 2019* provides that it is unlawful for a public agency to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights, or to fail to give proper consideration to a human right. This necessitates understanding the human rights that are protected. When making decisions or taking actions, consideration needs to be given to how that may impact on a person's human rights. Where there is a restriction on a person's human rights the restriction must be no greater than is justifiable to protect the rights of others or the community at large.

The contents of this report do not infringe upon the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Policy Implications:

Community Engagement and Customer Service Framework.

Risk Implications (Corporate, Operational, Project risks):

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation	Residual Risk
WFQ Funding Completion deadline of June 2024 is not met.	Low	Loss of funding support.	High	Commence works early 2024 based on short term priority projects.	Low
Closure of the existing transit centre during construction phase.	High	Loss of Public amenity / support.	High	Stage the works so the transit centre stays open whilst fit for purpose amenities are constructed and commissioned.	Medium
Reduced Parking Spaces during construction phase.	High	Loss of public/ visitor amenity.	High	Undertake Stakeholder engagement & identify and advertise alternate parking locations. Review and upgrade / increase formal carparking spaces in areas adjacent the park to ensure no net loss of parking during construction.	Low

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation	Residual Risk
Reduced parking at the completion of the Project.	Medium	Loss of trader / public / Stakeholder confidence.	High	Ensure the design development for the project incorporates a net increase in available carparking over and above the existing.	Low
Non acceptance of Councils endorsed Community engagement process & outcomes. Selecting Option 2 over the Community preference for Option 1.	High	Loss of Community Confidence. Loss of credibility. Loss of confidence in Councils Endorsed Processes. Loss of Community trust sets a precedent that decision arising from any engagement process undertaken in the future could be overturned.	High	Acceptance of Councils endorsed Community Stakeholder engagement Process and outcomes.	Low

Financial & Resource Implications:

WFQ Funding Bayan Park of \$450,000 June 2024 Deadline.

The Current Overall Bayan Park W4Q Project Budget for this project is \$450,000, Cost to date is \$34,510.82 leaving a balance of \$415,489.18

W4Q Funding deadline is 30 June 2024 to complete short term priorities.

Funding to complete medium term priority projects will be required through future budget consideration or State or Federal funding.

Report authorised by:

Andrew Graffen, Chief Executive Officer

Supporting Documents:

1. FINAL - Banyan Community Engagement Summary Report