

## GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL DEFERS EXPLOSIVES DECISION FOR TWO WEEKS

On Wednesday 6 April, the Planning and Development Committee of the Gympie Regional Council was poised to make a decision on the controversial Orica explosives store and distribution outlet proposed for the Moy Pocket quarry.

There had been 156 submissions to the proposal, including ones from the Sunshine Coast Council, the Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, the local school bus committee, the Australian Koala Foundation and the Sunshine Coast Environment Council.

Despite the opposition and the myriad concerns raised, the Council was poised to grant approval, as indicated in the report presented to the meeting by Council's planners.

However, a last minute motion supported by councillors was to defer the decision until the next planning meeting (April 20) in order to seek advice from an independent third party.

It's difficult to know how to read this move.

An optimist would probably suggest that the councillors had some reservations about granting an approval or perhaps even felt that the report presented to them lacked sufficient detail to enable them to make an informed decision.

An optimist would be hoping that councillors were having second thoughts and indeed this should be the case.

In the 'Public Comment' phase we commissioned a consultant planner Paul Summers to scrutinise the Council's planning scheme and to present a submission as to how Orica's proposal stacked up against it. Paul found there were considerable grounds in the planning scheme to justify a rejection by Council.

We asked Paul to examine the report present to councillors in the first week of April and he found it seriously deficient in addressing key points in his submission.

It's not only Paul Summers who found glaring deficiencies. The report dealt only superficially with many concerns raised in submissions and seemed to unerringly side with statements made in the applicant's proposal with no justification given for such a position.

A pessimist of course would suggest that Council might be mindful that there is every likelihood an approval will be challenged in the Planning and Environment Court.

We'll have a clearer idea in two weeks time as to which view was closer to the mark.

A Planning and Environment Court challenge is an expensive option for residents and shouldn't be necessary if Council was prepared to make decisions based on its planning scheme which should represent the collective aspirations and vision of Council and residents alike.

There's a certain irony in that Council is currently running a "Have your Say" campaign and yet is prepared to dismiss so easily the concerns raised in over 150 submissions.

There's not much time to shoot off a quick email to all the

councillors and they are all listed on [www.stoppres.com.au](http://www.stoppres.com.au) or give them a call... let them know their decision is being closely scrutinised!

Ian Mackay  
Moy Pocket

## COSTA'S GARDEN ODYSSEY COMING TO COORAN STATE SCHOOL



SBS's Greek Garden Guru of Costa's Garden Odyssey fame will be hitting the Sunshine Coast to celebrate **National Permaculture Day**. He will be opening celebrations at Yandina Community Gardens on Sunday 1 May 2011, he will also be checking out our very own Edible School Gardens with Leonie Shanahan on Tuesday 3 May 2011. The lucky three schools who will be showing off their gardening achievements will be **Cooran State School**, Eumundi State School and Our Lady of The Rosary Caloundra.

The gardening world on the Sunshine Coast is about to have its world turned upside down when the infectious character and passion of Costa Georgiadis and his flying beard hits Yandina for National Permaculture Day on Sunday, 1 May.

The Greek Garden Guru of SBS's Costa's Garden Odyssey fame will be opening the celebrations, spending the day with locals and also touring some of our wonderful edible school gardens during his Sunshine Coast visit. All gardeners have embraced Costa's all-consuming passion for plants and people. Leonie and her fellow permaculture members are thrilled that Costa would take the time out of his extremely busy schedule to visit us and share with us, his infectious character and passion for the soil, embracing nature's cycles and seasons, and nurturing your soul with gardening.

National Permaculture Day will also have wonderful presentations from the likes of Bob Cameron from Rockcote speaking on pizza cob ovens, Murray Hallam of Practical Aquaponics, Elisabeth Fekonia of Permaculture RealFood speaking on sub-tropical plants, and Rosina Buckman sharing her passion on backyard chooks.

Everyone is welcome to come along to Yandina Community Gardens on **Sunday, 1 May** for a celebration of permaculture, gardens, nature, music and good food. Gates open at 9.30am, bring the whole family to share in this special day!

CRYSTAL CLEAR RECEPTION



**Jim's  
Antennas**

READY

for digital TV

- ✓ Same Day Response
- ✓ Local Technicians
- ✓ Phone & Data Points
- ✓ Vast Satellite Systems
- ✓ Free signal test & quote

131 546

www.jimsantennas.com.au