

No more housing for Maleny?



by Caloundra City Council
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GREEN HILLS will be holding a planning session this Saturday with Paul Summers.

These sessions are usually very well attended so my advice is that you get there early for a seat. There have been a number of highly topical developments occur in Maleny in recent years. Obviously, the standout is the Woolworths development which appeared to be unachievable when viewed against our Maleny town plan. The problem was that the town plan had no real weight. After a 3 year local area plan process, the budget was depleted with no funds to make it effective.

A budget bid to the 2000 Council budget was unsuccessful and the rest is history. The Maleny Palms application was unpopular. What it told us was that community can ask for land to be dedicated to a caravan park but it is up to the owner whether they want to use it for short term visitors or to fill up with low cost permanent housing.

Development in Palm Street showed us that there are standards set for Councils on things like street lighting. It showed us that Councils and developers can co-operate and attempt to preserve and even enhance vegetation, but once the land parcels are sold to individuals, they own the trees and shrubs and can move or remove them as they please.

Currently Cloudwalk is topical. It shows what happens when community agrees to housing on a land parcel but also want to preserve values that are in conflict with urban development. The result is compromise.

The planning session will include the LGMS, which is currently on display. Council have indicated no additional housing for Maleny. No matter whether you agree or disagree with this, you should let Council know via its consultation program. If you agree, then may be tempting to just think that Council got it right and to not say anything. Remaining silent is not necessarily seen as agreement, so please tell Council your views.

Our town cannot continually take growth. At some point we will need to put up the no vacancy sign. The simple reality is that we cannot sustain a large population with our topography and infrastructure.

The LAP allowed for additional population on the basis that our road networks could be changed to allow for additional vehicles, additional land would be provided for industry and that a sustainable water supply could be found. Council has been unable to deliver on those three items.