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Date: 23. October 2019

ATTENTION: DIRECTOR – KEY SITES ASSESSMENTS

Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Director,

OBJECTION

State Significant Development Application No: SSD-10300
Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space

I object to the Development Application and request that a Public Hearing be held.

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. The original public proposal included Performing Arts space with the potential to create income, tourism interest and visitation for Council and did not include Council offices with no income producing ability.
2. There has been no meaningful community engagement for the inclusion of Council Chambers.
3. Council has restricted its invited consultation to special interest groups.
4. 14,768 residents have signed a community petition calling the project to be suspended, which has been ignored by Council.
5. The extraordinary high cost of the project in relation to Council needing IPart approval for 3 successive annual rate increases exceeding 20% from 2015. In prior years Council was retrenching staff.
6. The scale and height of the building exponentially increased complexity and cost.
7. Project cost in relation to the low local average income amounts to improper burden on the community. Noting Council already ranks as the highest administration cost per resident within the Category 5 Councils, by 200%.
8. The project is located in an unsuitable area with restricted access, no convenient major road frontage undermines Council's statement benefits from tourism and other visitation.
9. There are better available site options available to Council where options for income producing design elements (eg restaurant, theatre) could be incorporated to reduce the financial burden on the community.

Other issues:

The current Council Chambers were built in 1985 with stronger foundations to allow for an extension of two floors! Why waste the opportunity to save money and greenhouse gasses? I still have, like many other residents, no paved footpath fronting my dwelling. Council has no compassion for older residents and mothers with prams who need a paved path for their mobility.

Signature	<i>Eric West</i>
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