

Rally speech

You folk are our Airlie Hero's. Had we not conducted such a Spirited Defence against the Self interested people and groups who put: Profit before IDENTITY at the P.C.Y.C. You, we, I, would not be here today.

Whitney's and her team of Clifford, Atkinson, and Collins were 5 days from sneaking this radical plan through under the radar. It would only require a Government Rubber stamp and it would be enshrined in Law. Contrary to her statements "it is just the start of Public consultation.

We have come out to Fight for Airlie -

To Councillors: the only Public consultation to date over 10 months has been by their own admission a 300 Telephone call survey!!

I say, remember who it is who elected you to Office. Many of you used the platform of "Save our foreshore".

Hear our cry, the overwhelming majority of Airlie's citizens.

No, No, No - to High Rise Development

- **Skyscrapers twelve and/or 8 story concrete monoliths. Do not create another City out of our Precious Rural Coastal Town**
- **from two and three, to FOUR on the lagoon side of Main street and four to EIGHT on the Precinct Triangle to Waterson way**
- **from 2 to 3 stories in all Residential housing areas of Jubilee Pocket, Airlie Village and Cannonvale, as well as a reduction in the minimum size of Lots from 600 to 400 encouraging subdivision , Flats or unit style dwellings to be built. There is already an over abundance of Units which just are not selling.**

Councillors Preserve: Airlie's IDENTITY

This ICONIC, beautiful, quaint Low rise, Low density Coastal Town is so much loved. It is Airlie's "Difference" that attracts 545,000 domestic and International visitors a year. They come to enjoy:

- **The Unique nature of Airlie's environment.**
- **It's incredible variety of vantage points to observe it's natural beauty**

- It's unique aqua colours of the sea and yachts at their moorings, its beaches, fauna , and mountain backdrop which adorn the relaxed atmosphere of the Village of Airlie , its Main street and the gateway to our 74 unspoilt Islands

Most dwellings have a view and our Residents want to retain this natural outlook with Certainty.

How? It is easy.

- Amend the "New Town Plan" and remove all clauses which allow an increase in Building height and/or a change to the Zoning.
- Retain the Zones and Height restrictions of the current 2009 Town Plan

Why?

It is Airlie's Unique Difference which is our greatest asset. We are one of 4 must see places: Daintree, Airlie, Fraser and Byron. Why because each has its Special beauty. And each is Different.

**We are not a City. We do not want to be a City. If you want high density, High Rise endless technological, entertainment arcades, often called "fun" - GO to the Gold or Sunshine Coast ,
Everyone has a CHOICE.**

If you are a developer or Real estate person and wish to develop HIGH Rise, feel free; Go to where it is approved. Do NOT come here and believe you can change the Town Plan regulations in Airlie, to fill your pockets and create a Concrete Jungle with all its ENVIROMENTAL (the reef, traffic, parking, and infrastructure) and Social Issues.

Do Not Destroy Airlie, a town which deserves to be a Heritage listed, an ICON.

Leave Airlie Beach alone.

We welcome investment and development, BUT within the 2009 Town Plan Regulations.

Please Councillors, Residents and Businesses alike, “Reflect”, treasure the Jewel we have, look to the long term future of Airlie beach, not a quick Buck.

Remember: **"All that Glitters is Not Gold"**

Developers are transitory by nature and predatory by intent.

Just because a Developer is interested in filling his pocket, does not mean he has the right to demand **a radical taller, building footprint from Council.**

Councillors Stand up to them! Say No!, move elsewhere. Just like **Byron Bay** did for its Town Precinct. History shows it prospered, not suffered as a result.

Remember History:

Not 50Km south of here **LAGUNA KEYS are the ruins of the last great international development.** The Japanese/Singaporean Developers promised the Whitsunday Region a magnificent 5 star Resort, Golf course and a beautiful new international airport. It too was to bring jobs, employment, and thousands of tourists. Yet today, lies the mothballed remnants of an overgrown Golf course, Resort and silted up Marina, typical of predatory Developers

Remember Port of Airlie, Marina Shores. Approvals do not guarantee Completion. Look at the Greek Islands and see the disaster failure to complete or liquidation produces.

Development money does not guarantee jobs, or Prosperity.

HIGH RISE does NOT necessarily equal to Progress, as the chamber of Commerce suggests.

Their hotel model requirement is spurious and misleading. It may be their wish, but is not the essential ingredient for a successful hotel, more a manifestation **of their desire for Fat pockets.**

There are many major hotel groups operating 4 story five star hotels profitably e.g. Noosa.

Anyway the current approved DA for port of Airlie allows for a 8 story "Slim hotel" and the remainder 5 Stories (still too High)

Do we need it?

Room occupancy in Airlie accommodation for the last 5 years has only runs at 50-60% in Airlie.

Tourist numbers in REMPLAN are only expected to rise from 525,000 by 36,000 per annum visitors

Why the rush, to pass this New Town Plan?and the lack of Public consultation?

The Council's Motion to pass the New Town Plan must be deferred till after the Council Election in March 2016. Let the Voice of the people of Airlie speak.

Because:

The plan has many unsubstantiated assumptions, rhetoric, and is lacking in scientific substance. There has not been a study of traffic, parking, infrastructure or effects on Tourist perceptions and the Great Barrier Reef. Merely the whim of the Town Planners desire to stop urban spread up the Cannon valley, is not a valid reason to increase heights.

The Indigenous Landholders have not been consulted and have not given approval.

"Higher is not better." 8 and 12 Stories is NOT necessary we live in a costal community, not the city. There is an abundance of land. Look at Hamilton Island's eyesore "Tower blocks"

"Height has nothing to do with employment" They are not related

Residential Areas:

To change the Zoning of Residential areas and the **storey height from 2 to 3 in Jubilee Pocket, Mandalay, Abel point(Airlie Village) and the whole of Cannonvale as well as reduce the minimum block size from 600 sq M to 400 sq.m. This will pit resident against resident, causing social disharmony with the evolution of flats, units and other medium density developments.**

What this plan does is grossly exceed the required number/type of dwellings. Instead of providing for the expected residential growth of the region of only 2% per annum, (councils Figures), The proposed change will produce approximately 3-4 times more potential dwellings than are required in the Whitsunday Regional Economic Profile(REMPLAN)

Call to Mayor Whitney:

You are the elected leader; get off the band wagon you are on,

HEAR the people who elected you

Defer any vote on the current town plan unless amended as requested until after the Election in March 2016. Let the Community of Airlie speak.

We the people of Airlie are not blind, not stupid. We are wise, as to what Self interested groups and politicians have carefully conceived and done. Do not drop a bomb on Airlie!

The Proposed change to the "Building height restrictions"

will change - the Vista and Face of Airlie FOREVER.

To our elected Councillors: You have a responsibility to stop, take a breath, have a break, consider your electorates wishes. For if you do not hear the Voice of these people present here today. If you fail to do so, face the consequences.

"We will not forget when the ballot box opens in March 2016. You have no right to have kept this secret from us till the last minute. Furthermore some of you have back flipped on their electoral promise and/or principles.

What can you the Public do is;

Look at

1. Our Face book page "Fight for Airlie" and share it with all your friends.

Take the submission form, print scan, sign it and return it to the email address specified.

2. The Website:"ThinkAirlie.com."

Take the submission form, print scan, sign it and return it to the email address specified.

We will attach your name to a professionally prepared submission. All submissions to be valid must be received by 12th October for delivery to Council and State Government.

Valedictory.

To you all today I say thank you for coming, for caring about the Paradise we enjoy and have chosen to live in.

The Fight to Save Airlie is not over. It has only just begun. Ultimately OUR final say will be at the Ballot box in March 2016.

We demand: “the retention of the 2009 Zoning and Building Height restrictions in entirety “.

No compromise