

Fivefold Vision for Munibung Hill

Recommendations

1. Geological and Cultural Heritage Park

Recommendation: That Munibung Hill be recognised for her significance as:

1. a geological heritage site* with the installation of explanatory boards detailing the geological and geomorphological features that have taken place over her 251 million year history – including the flooding of ‘country’ stabilising 6,000 years as Lake Macquarie - and how these features and events have been valued for many thousands of years by indigenous Australians
2. an indigenous heritage site* with
 - a. the installation of a memorial to Biraban in the form of a life-size bust complete with a replica of the gorget presented to Biraban by Governor Sir Ralph Darling in 1830
 - b. the creation of a memory trail with story boards. Arriving at the place on Munibung Hill where it is believed Biraban would have communicated with other tribes, the trail would be a fitting tribute to this elder within the Awabakal nation

2. Conservation Area / Nature Reserve

Recommendation: That Council take steps to gain ownership of the privately owned land presently zoned ‘Environmental’ and declare Munibung Hill a Conservation Area or Nature Reserve:

1. for the protection of her flora and fauna, particularly old growth ‘habitat’ trees
2. to ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and to be the site for the establishment of an arboretum or small botanic garden
3. to allow for further regeneration projects, resulting in the re-introduction of plants and animals
4. to fulfill an important role for keystone species within a Habitat Stepping Stone program to enhance the areas **green infrastructure**
5. to explain the story of ‘**nesting**’ – that we are all part of a larger whole within which we find safe harbor [4,5: See Supplementary papers]

3. Visitor Economy

Recommendation: That Munibung Hill ...

1. provides ideal locations for the siting of visitor viewing platforms permitting expansive panoramic views across the four points of the compass to the Lake and surrounding ‘country’ ;
2. has within her store a range of attractions meeting descriptors such as: tourist attraction, plant lovers’ haven, bird observers’ dream, family friendly rest areas, walkers’ circuits, astronomers’ go-to site. Therefore from a visitor economy perspective it is recommended that Munibung Hill ...
 - a. be acknowledged for her geological status that has attracted humans to explore her makeup and how this has resulted in a variety of land uses across time (see Vision 1)
 - b. be acknowledged for her status as revered country from an indigenous culture perspective (see Vision 1)
 - c. be allowed to show off her plant and animal communities that have existed across 2,400 human generations and beyond this back to the time of the dinosaurs into deep time (see Vision 2)
 - d. provides wonderful opportunities for the installation of walking and bike trails, family picnic areas, rest and reCreation spaces – leading to improved outcomes for human health and wellbeing (see Vision 4)
 - e. provides the ideal location for siting of the Lake Macquarie Stardome, including the provision of facilities such as café and a garden setting for outdoor eating and socialising (see Vision 5)

4. Rest and ReCreation Area

Recommendation: That Munibung Hill provides the ideal location for:

1. establishing walking and running trails as proposed in LMCC Glendale Recreation and Land Plan, Oct 2015;
2. the installation of family friendly tracks and trails, family picnic areas, rest and reCreation spaces, time out quiet places;
3. building community cohesion through spaces suitable for the staging of festivals and special events;
4. educating us all about our shared responsibilities - encouraging Plogging as an action based community service.

5. Observatory and Planetarium Site

Recommendation: That Munibung Hill ...

1. provides the ideal location for the siting of the Lake Macquarie Stardome, incorporating an astronomical observatory and planetarium,
 - a. including the provision of refreshments by means of a café, within ...
 - b. a garden setting for outdoor eating and socialising.
2. provides an ideal location for a *Festival of the Stars*, including celebrating the contribution of Indigenous Astronomy to our cultural heritage.