

7 April 2006

Mr. M. Kinnane ESM  
Director-General  
Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation  
Level 18 Mineral House  
41 George St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir

Tully Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC)  
Sport and Recreation Queensland Major Facilities Program Grant Application  
Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme (LGBCWSS)

We attach two submissions in relation to the recent application by the Cardwell Shire Council for grants under the Sport and Recreation Queensland Major Facilities Program and Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme to assist financing the above captioned project.

We would greatly appreciate if you would pass the applicable submission on to the relevant authorities within the two relevant areas of your Department. It was our intention to submit these prior to March 30 but cyclone Larry prevented our finalisation of the documents.

As you maybe aware from our meeting in December 2005 with the Minister we are urging in our attached submissions that both authorities to whom Council has applied for funding should defer consideration of the grant application pending:-

- A report justifying the Need for such a large facility on the currently proposed location at the Tully High School.
- The preparation of a detailed and comprehensive Feasibility Study.
- Adequate Public Consultation.
- Evidence of a Council Mandate, and/or Cardwell Shire-wide desire by the public to spend ratepayer monies in this manner on an asset it does not own.

Sadly we have been forced to adopt this approach given the complete lack of response by Council, the Tully High School P&C and their consultant Lambert Recreation Planning to our many questions about this project and the processes adopted by its advocates to progress it. We have also become aware that we are not the only community group within the Cardwell Shire that has major doubts about the size and expense of the proposed facility.

Please note that in principle MBCA does not object to an improved assembly hall for the Tully High School, and never has. Nor indeed a single purpose performing arts/cultural centre as originally proposed. In the view of MBCA however, the MPC, as currently configured, now appears to be excessive to the needs of the community rather than a result of a carefully considered process, and does not represent an appropriate outlay of a record sum of ratepayer monies. Why the project escalated from an affordable single-purpose facility to a triple-fold more expensive multi-purpose facility has never been explained to the community.

We understand that the Cardwell Shire Council intends also to apply for funding for this controversial project from the Regional Centres Program and Rural Living Infrastructure Program. In this eventuality we would appreciate if your Department would take into account the sentiments of the enclosed submissions.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Allan Ogden  
Secretary