

Eco-villages

The report in your paper of the packed Council Chamber when the Director of Environmental Services, Mr David Kanaley, presented his findings following his trip to Europe, showed the great interest there is in this Shire in the eco-village concept. The term eco-village, for those unfamiliar with it, actually covers a wide range of possibilities but broadly refers to

villages specially designed by people with a vision of living sustainably closer to nature and in arrangements that encourage living in closer relationship with neighbours.

The fact that following a study tour that focussed on eco-villages the Byron Council's director responsible for environmental and strategic planning has returned so enthusiastic about this form of development is of great significance. He was particularly impressed by the examples where he saw residents enjoying a high quality of life, a diversity of employment and business enterprises and resultant social and economic benefits for the locality where they were.

Mr Kanaley evidently sees eco-village development as providing for lifestyle options that would be of benefit to the community to encourage, and Council's planning instruments, he says, will accommodate it.

To provide more understanding of what is going on overseas, the Sustainability Research Institute will be showing films of two outstanding European eco-villages in the Mullumbimby Civic Hall on Thursday July 13 at 5.30pm. I hope many people will take the opportunity to see these and to discuss, following the films, the issues they raise. There are significant environmental, social and economic benefits that could flow from Council's support, and greater community consideration of the potential possibilities offered by these community developments would be timely, particularly in regard to local self-reliance in a globalising world. I encourage everyone to come along.

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More letters overleaf

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Eco-village presentation

Following the strong public interest in the presentation on Eco-villages given by Council's Strategic Planner David Kanaley and based on his recent study trip to Europe, the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) has arranged a public discussion evening including a screening of a film on an established eco-village in Germany, 15km from Berlin. Footage of the Scottish eco-village Findhorn will also be shown.

SRI is networking with eco-villages around the world and developing an information resource base to assist people interested in their development and sustainable technologies and practices applicable to this part of the world.

The video evening will be held on Thursday, July 13 from 5 to 6.30pm at the Civic Hall in Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

Discussions will focus on how eco-villages can provide economic and social benefits,

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