

**Lennox Community Garden - Photos**

Photo of the black shed in the Lennox Community Gardens, taken from the middle of Ocean Breeze Reserve looking towards the houses on the private driveway off Ocean Breeze Drive. Hutley Drive road works on the right.



Existing hedge screening some residents along private driveway from a view of the black shed



View of some residents on the private driveway towards the black shed in the Lennox Community Garden



Looking from the black shed towards the residents at the end of the private driveway



Dated: April 8, 2020

**To Whom It May Concern**

Please consider this letter my response to council letter ref. #2103, Doc No:20/10202 regarding Proposal to Licence Community Land - Lennox Community Gardens, Ocean Breeze Dr.

I have owned the property at 9 Ocean Breeze Dr. which is adjacent to the community garden for the last 25 yrs and have recently retired there. In the 12 months period we have returned to live in our property we have been greatly impacted by the council developing the Hutley Drive extension which is directly adjacent to two sides of our property and now, again we find ourselves addressing another council proposal for the land use of remaining land of the Ocean Breeze Dr. Reserve.

Based on the limited information I have been able to source regarding the leasing proposal for the said land I strongly object to this proposal for the following reasons.

- 1. I object to this proposal as it will limit the use of the public reserve to a very small group of people.**

This reserve has just recently been significantly impacted by the council using the a large area of the reserve land as a short term water retention basin for the newly formed Hutley Dr. extension. This change combined with the market garden proposal would significantly impact the public's use of the land to the extent where there is very little land left for any gainful public use.

- 2. I object to this proposal due to the council's lack of a long term plan for this reserve causing uncertainty and frustration to surrounding residents.**

Constant changing development proposals for this area give little confidence in the council's long term planning strategies and personnel who are meant to represent ratepayers.

Comments by our counsellor to the effect that '*we've had it so good for so long*' and that we are just '*whiners*' again give surrounding residents little confidence that the council is listening to our concerns and representing ratepayers.

I hereby call on our counsellor to better represent the interests of his constituents. Further to his comments residents would not be 'whining' if there was a clear plan for the area that the council would follow. I hereby call on council to a make long term, abiding plan for the use of this reserve.

As a long time land owner at 9 Ocean Breeze Dr. who has has to endure many land use proposals for this area I feel quite frustrated by this council's constant attack on maintaining this land for the use it was original given i.e. public land is to be used for the interests and use of the wider community.

- 3. I object to this proposal being located on public land in an established residential area.**

As per my initial objection to the said land being used as a community garden presented in 2016 I restate this objection. This public reserve is located in an established estate and as such people purchased their properties based on the surrounding facilities, in this case a public reserve. Over many years council has ignored this fact and consequently the needs of the community and has on many occasions attempted to change the land use of this public reserve i.e. land usage proposals have included a council depot, bushfire brigade headquarters, skate park, community garden and now a leased market garden.

One such project that seemed to benefit all residents and the wider community was a proposal for a community park with a playground, picnic areas and bike tracks. Unfortunately we have to assume due to lack of communication from council on the progress of this project that plans for this community park seemed to have been shelved and also given the latest changes that have occurred in the reserve.

If these facilities are required then why does the council not locate such facilities in new developments i.e. Epic Estate. In this regards residents buying into these newer areas would do so knowing the land use facilities being provided. It is my opinion that council does not do so as they know that these unfavourable facilities would impact land value and people's interests to purchase property containing these facilities.

4. **I object to this proposal due to the limited details being provided with regards to the terms and conditions of this lease proposal.** In this I would like to know:

a) how the council intends to provide access to the garden and thereby protecting the private nature of the driveway adjacent to the community garden? On numerous occasions the residents of this area have had to request users of the community garden not to use the private driveway adjacent to the garden. This has unduly placed residents in unpleasant situations.

b) what are the maintenance obligations of the leasee with regards to; lawn maintenance; the use of chemicals for vermin, weed and pest control, types of plants to be used, etc. ?

c) what additional facilities are allowed i.e. additional buildings and their location, security fencing, etc ?

d) what is the lease fee for the land and how will this be used?

e) what are consultative obligations of the leasee to discuss implications of the development with surrounding residents?

In this regards a black container was placed on the reserve creating a visual eyesaw. No consultation was undertaken as to how the placement of this container would impact residents. A little bit of consultation with residents would make this whole project more tolerable.

e) the process for calling for tenders for the lease and appointing the leasee.

f) who forms the management committee for these gardens and what are their connections with councillors?

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our response for this licencing proposal. Your consideration and response is appreciated and reflects the council's willingness to genuinely engage with residents that this proposal directly impacts.

Regards  
Ross Brown

**Joanne Cordery**

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**From:** Mari-anne Cox <m-annec@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 April 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Katie Miller  
**Subject:** #2103, Doc No: 20/1020 Community Garden

**CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.**

Dear Katie,

We have met a few of the members of the Community Gardens and they are all very nice people, we only have two objections we would appreciate consideration on:

1. The big Black Shipping Container is unsightly and offensive being placed right at the front of our homes instead of being placed next to the tree's. The Council representative who spoke to us originally about the Gardens told us their storage sheds would be placed against the tree line where it would be inconspicuous, we have spoken to some gardeners working there and other residents of Lennox Head and all have agreed with us that it would have been more appropriate to place the Container against the tree's, and they understand our distress.
2. The Community Gardens supplied a sign which was placed at the top of our Private drive which states the driveway is for residents only and they assured us that their members would not use the driveway, however, when on three occasions residents of the driveway have had to approach some gardeners and ask them not to use the driveway as access to the garden, their response has been either Resentful or Sarcasm from the gardeners. We would appreciate Garden Members respecting our concern in this matter as we are not covered by insurance should something happen and we are also financially responsible for the upkeep of this driveway.

Yours faithfully

Ray and Mari-anne Cox  
7 Ocean Breeze Drive  
Lennox Head

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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