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30 September 2015

Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Shire Council
PO Box 723
MOSSMAN QLD 4873

Via email: ceounit@douglas.qld.gov.au

Dear Madam

RE: SUSTAINABLE EVENT GUIDELINES

Douglas Shire Sustainability Group (DSSG) recently reviewed Douglas Shire Council's (DSC) requirements for environmental management of events conducted in the Shire.

We note that although the Prescribed Activity Application Form (LL14) requires an environmental management plan, there appears to be no DSC policy or guidelines associated.

Our research indicates that sustainable events are becoming commonplace nationally and globally, as public expectation increases for lower carbon emissions and less environmental impacts. A sustainable event can provide a better experience for patrons and demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability and provide opportunities to make environmental and cost savings.

For many years the only environmental consideration as part of events management was dealing with the waste produced during the event. Around 2004 the Victorian state government developed the Waste Wise Events program to encourage a more environmentally friendly direction to managing waste from events, primarily minimising waste and recycling.

More recently a range of guidelines and fact sheets relating to broader environmental sustainability considerations for events have been developed both internationally and nationally. Some of these include the UK 'Sustainable Events Guide' (DEFRA 2007), and a number of Australian web-based resources such as the Sustainable Living Foundation 'Sustainable Event Planner' and the 'Green Event Policy' from Great Southern Events. Tourism Australia also has a Sustainability Toolkit and Resources section on their website with a link to 'Green Events' and 'Green Business Events' factsheets.

DSSG believes it would be complementary to the DSC Corporate Plan if the Shire was to move to adopting sustainable events (Green Events) guidelines, and encourage DSC to do so.

Attached are a few links providing outline of guidelines and policies currently in place in Australia, including Townsville Council.

Yours sincerely



Laurene Hull

Secretary

cc: Mayor Julia Leu via email: Julia.leu@douglas.qld.gov.au

<http://townsville.qld.gov.au/community/events/Documents/TCC%20Events%20-%20Environmental%20Guidelines.pdf>

http://epa.tas.gov.au/documents/sustainable_event_guidelines.pdf

http://www.eventimpacts.com/project/resources/environmental/basic_resource/checklist/

<http://www.eventsplanner.info/>

<http://www.specialevents.com.au/resources/greenevents.html>

http://www.tourism.australia.com/documents/corporate/TACA4047_Green_Events.pdf

http://www.tourism.australia.com/documents/corporate/TACA4047_Green_Business_Events.pdf

<http://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/australian-centre-event-management/our-research/resources-16>