

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR:** Councillor J McKay

**COUNCIL MEETING:** Ordinary Meeting 30 January 2020

I hereby notify of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on 30 January 2020.

**That Council request the Chief Executive Officer**

- (a) to investigate appropriate mechanisms, including International Dark Sky Reserve Designations that recognise, protect and celebrate the night sky and
- (b) report findings to the Ordinary Meeting scheduled in November 2020.

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Councillor *Jerry McKay*

*21/01/2020*  
Date

**To all Councillors and Directors**

I hereby notify that Councillor J McKay intends to move the motion as shown above at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on Thursday, 30 January 2020.

*M. Seitz*  
.....  
Chief Executive Officer

21/01/2020  
.....  
Date

**COUNCILLOR COMMENT:**

In October 2019, Council supported my attendance to the Dark Sky Conference in Lake Tekapo, NZ. I was accompanied by Dr Vicki Schafer and Dr Ken Wishaw from the Sunshine Coast University. Over 14 countries sent representatives to the conference, which reaffirms that for the Sunshine Coast

Council this opportunity holds a variety of opportunities including environment, economic and cultural.

Cr Rogerson, Dr Moore, Dr Schafer and Dr Wishaw visited a number of sites within the Sunshine Coast hinterland to observe and further explore what opportunities might be available here locally for us to expand upon.

Council recently endorsed an application for nomination for the Sunshine Coast to be recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The opportunity for an International Dark Sky Reserve Designation complements the UNESCO principles. Should the Sunshine Coast be successful it would:

1. Preserving cultural practices and ceremonies relating to the night sky; the intangible heritage relating to mythology, traditional navigation and cultural heritage related to the night sky;
2. Enhancing opportunities for scientific, amateur astronomy and the right for all people to enjoy a clear, unpolluted night sky;
3. Elimination of excessive distraction for pollinating insects which can result in reduced crop yields;
4. Support for turtle hatchings as they race towards the ocean
5. Being a natural visitor attraction – dark skies and designated dark sky reserves, offer avenue for astro-tourism. Which the new airport expansion, dark skies facilitate the development of ecotourism products that appeal to new visitors. Positioned within the Biosphere nomination for the Sunshine Coast, and complementary to the Noosa Biosphere, dark sky designation offers unique ways to attract desirable high yield visitors.

I fully understand that this needs to be workshopped and considered by the incoming new council; and thus the request for the matter to be reported to the November meeting ensuring that the new councillors have had adequate time to absorb and be fully briefed on this opportunities that might present.