

NOTICE OF MOTION

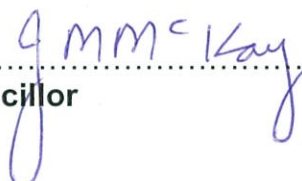
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR: Cr Jenny McKay

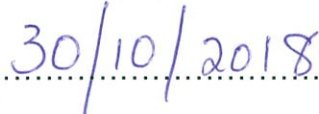
COUNCIL MEETING: Ordinary Meeting 8 November

I hereby notify of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on Thursday 8th November 2018

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to investigate the following:

An application to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), to designate a Dark Sky Reserve encompassing the Obi-Obi Valley, Conondale and Maleny National Parks; and further to report back the findings to the March 2019 Ordinary Meeting.


.....
Councillor


.....
Date

To all Councillors and Directors

I hereby notify that Councillor Jenny McKay intends to move the motion as shown above at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on Thursday, **8th November 2018**


.....
Chief Executive Officer

30 October 2018
.....
Date

COUNCILLOR COMMENT

For the past 12 months, the Brisbane Astronomical Society have met on the Maleny Community Golf Course site, Maleny Precinct, Maleny to observe the night skies.

An opportunity has been identified for Astro-Tourism in the hinterland. Research indicates that ninety nine percent of the developed world's population live under light polluted skies. This vast population is denied the opportunity to view a dark sky and many people have never seen a starlit sky at night. Astro-tourism is a rapidly growing component of the massive eco-tourism industry. The only other dark sky reserve in Australasia (Lake Tekapo, New Zealand) has seen a doubling of tourist visitors from 400,000 to 800,000 per annum in the five years since its designation as a dark sky reserve.

Given the development of the new runway at the Sunshine Coast Airport, the identified Obi-Obi Valley and environs offers a rare resource and opportunity to visit some of the most accessible dark skies in Australia, particularly for the vast and rapidly expanding Asian eco-tourism market.

Worldwide, dark skies are under threat from Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) and in particular inappropriate application of street lighting. Early analysis has indicated that sky glow effects from existing street lighting in Maleny and Kenilworth may require attention under this IDA application. This application would provide a focus for engagement with Energy Queensland to provide high quality street lighting in line with council's Urban Lighting Master Plan (ULMP).

A successful IDA designation would provide the Sunshine Coast with international recognition of the region, focusing on the eco-tourism market and recognising the Sunshine Coast Council for excellence in stewardship of our region. Obligations that come with this designation would assist council in protection of this environment from the harmful effects of ALAN into the future.