

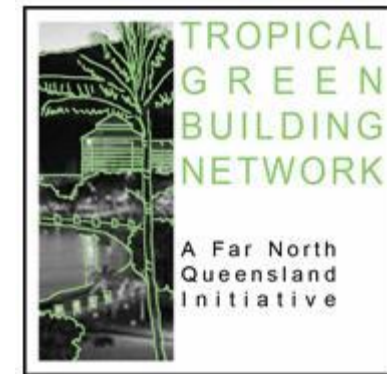
NAME: Tropical Green Building Network

MEETING: 25

FACILITATOR: Anna McGuire/Roger Mainwood **MINUTES:** Anna McGuire

DATE: 7th September 2011

PRESENT: Shaneen Fantin, Daryl Douglas, Colin Free, Trevor Hardwick, Ian Thomas, Peter Collins, Sylvia and Greg Byrne, Sandra Dibbs, Belinda Allwood, Nicole Ewan, Chris van Dyke, Sophie Barrett, Emma Thirkell, Edi Piagno, Roger Mainwood, Anna McGuire, Jane Hanan.



APOLOGIES:

TOPIC: *Education for a sustainable built environment*

Issue	Discussed	Action	Who
Latest news and announcements			
Upcoming events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable House Day, Sunday 11th September, 10am-4pm.• TGBN building tour, building TBC Wednesday 5 October, 5.30pm.		
New ideas/reports			
Regional Economic Plan	<p><i>Background:</i> Margaret Darveniza approached Emma T about the TNQ Regional Economic Plan which is nearing completion. This plan addresses the economic future of the Cairns, Cook, Cassowary Coast and Tablelands Regional Council areas.</p> <p>One of the strategies in the action plan is to “Position the region as a leader in sustainable economic development.” Within this strategy there is an action that reads: <i>8.6 Promote tropical green build principles and capability across the region.</i></p> <p>The aim is for each action listed in the plan need to have a lead organisation associated with them that will accept responsibility for driving the action. Margaret contacted the group because the TGBN has been suggested as the most appropriate group to play this leadership role for this action.</p>	Arrange sub group meeting to discuss the Regional Plan.	Anna

	<p>If the TGBN agrees to be the leading organisation for this action, the responsibility is to lead the action and to work with the plan manager (Advance Cairns) to report on progress.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> The group was unsure of what taking this responsibility on would actually mean. As an unfunded group, it may be unrealistic to expect the TGBN to drive this action, however it seems that this is work that the TGBN is already doing. It was decided that a subgroup meeting would be organised to discuss this further and that Margaret be invited to this meeting.</p>		
<p>Education for a sustainable built environment (discussion chaired by Roger Mainwood)</p>	<p><i>Background:</i> JCU Cairns has recently created a Bachelor of Sustainability program, which is excellent but doesn't cover the built environment in detail (it's a science degree and can't cover everything in detail).</p> <p>The Institute of Architects have been discussing with JCU the possibility of establishing a tropical architecture/design course at the Cairns campus. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Stephen Weller, is very keen to establish a built environment school. At this point, nothing has been decided and ideas on the structure and content of the course are still being formed.</p> <p>JCU previously offered a Bachelor of Architecture, then a masters program, but these were shut down about 10 years ago. Currently the town planning that is taught at the campus has a tropical design element, but it is not possible to major in tropical design.</p> <p>It looks like it may not be feasible to start with a full degree. It would be easier and quicker to start with a Masters (2 year, post graduate) program first, then develop a degree later on. Currently, if there is demand then the government will fund the course.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> <u>Should the course cover both building design and architecture?</u> Sandra – Building design is just as valid, need a course that will be for both architecture and design. Perhaps a 'Built Environment' Masters program that would cover planning, architecture, design and landscape architecture? Daryl - The course needs to be broader than just architecture, and more inclusive than a Masters program. Need a holistic view of education, from primary to tertiary. Peter C – There seems to be general agreement that a Masters program is a good place to start, so we should work on that for now and develop from there. Emma – Who is responsible for 'demonstrating demand' for the course? Edi – Not TGBN, although letters of support would be very helpful to show strong local support for developing the course. A request for letters of support will be sent out to TGBN members. <u>What should the course be called?</u></p>	<p>Keep the TGBN informed of progress with this project.</p> <p>Send request for letters of support to Anna for distribution to the network.</p> <p>Distribute the request for letters of support to the network and update members on project progress.</p>	<p>Edi/Roger/Shaneen</p> <p>Edi/Roger/Shaneen</p> <p>Anna</p>

	<p>“Tropical Built Environment” “Tropical Architecture and Design” “Tropical Urban Design and Building” “Tropical Planning and Architecture” How can the TGBN help? Letters of support from members and from any contacts at other Universities etc. <u>What is involved in setting up the course?</u> Roger - An “Endowed Chair” would need to be sourced with industry and academic background. This is a sponsored position by the University, and needs to be an academic, usually poached from another University. They set up the course. JCU would be responsible for finding this Endowed Chair. <u>What would the TGBN's role be once the course is running?</u> The TGBN could be a source of guest speakers for the course and a useful point of contact for students to network and access resources. <u>What is the timeframe for setting up the course?</u> The aim is for modules of the Masters program to be up and running by winter 2012. The Undergraduate degree could then be set up possibly within three years, by 2015. <u>What can we offer young people before the course is set up?</u> Chris – TAFE used to offer a drafting course, which at least kept some interested young people here. That course no longer runs and we have nothing to keep young people interested in architecture and design in Cairns.</p> <p><u>Conclusions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Masters degree is the most efficient way to start, with scope for developing a Bachelor degree within 4 years. • To be of value, this Masters program needs to be focused and to provide a specific qualification, so should focus on architecture. • The name could be something like “Tropical Architecture” or “Tropical Architecture and Design” • TGBN members will assist by providing letters of support for the development of the initial Masters program and the Bachelor Degree (in the longer term). 		
Next TGBN Event	TGBN building tour, venue TBC 7th October 2011, 5.30pm.		
Next Meeting	Wednesday 2nd November 2011 5.30pm – 7.15pm City Library, Cairns.		