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**The General Manager
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie 2444**

re: The Glasshouse Future Directions

Dear Sir,

The Bonny Hills Progress Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Glasshouse Future Directions documents. The BHPA circulated the information provided by PMHC to all our members and encouraged them to make an informed decision and, where appropriate, a formal submission.

There is no doubt that the Glasshouse issues continue to generate considerable discussion and a wide variety of opinions within the community. Bonny Hills residents are no different.

Members of the BHPA Committee have closely examined the documents on exhibition and have welcomed the decision to change the accounting procedures to increase transparency. The Committee also noted the detailed financial data in relation to loans and the implications of early repayment.

The Committee also agreed that other public facilities and services provided by Council (eg Library Services, Recreation Reserves, etc) are not expected to make a profit which raises the question of whether the Glasshouse, as another public facility, should be expected to. The key issues that people keep coming back to, of course, are servicing the large debt and the significant maintenance costs.

The community also welcomes the many opportunities the Glasshouse provides for youth including school performances, exhibitions and training. PMHC is encouraged to expand these opportunities.

One of the aspects of the Glasshouse operations that is of concern is the Visitor Information Centre. The BHPA encourages PMHC to enhance the VIC by supporting the iKew Centre which will be fully operational soon. The Glasshouse VIC has no provision for large recreational vehicles so this opportunity needs to be captured elsewhere, ideally out on the Pacific Highway. The iKew, if supported and promoted by PMHC, could capture a significant slice of this growing market but would need improved signage on the Highway.

In conclusion, thank you again for the opportunity to comment and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the BHPA.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Hafey
Secretary
17 April 2013