

25 November 2017

Dear Bruny Island Organisation,

(including community organisations, local businesses and community services)

I am writing to you as the coordinator of the recently launched Bruny Island Liveability Study, which has been commissioned by the Kingborough Council, with funding support from the State Government and oversight by the Bruny Island Advisory Committee.

The core aims of the study are to:

- identify high priority liveability issues for people living, working and owning property on Bruny
- examine the way different liveability issues impact on each other (for example, how an ageing population impacts on workforce availability, which in turn impacts on provision of aged care)
- where action is required to address a high priority issue, identify practical and achievable solutions proposed by local people and organisations
- establish a process for monitoring the implementation of actions
- enable the study process to be replicated, so priorities and actions are tracked over time.

The full program of community consultation will take place in February-March 2018, including in the form of small group meetings across the Island and a whole-of-community survey.

A key aspect of the study approach is to provide the whole community with a broad range of information **during** the community consultation and **before** the community survey commences. This is to help ensure all Islanders have access to a range of facts, views and perspectives before submitting their formal survey responses.

Therefore, in the first phase of the study, local community organisations, industry associations, individual businesses and other stakeholders are invited to provide the information they believe should be considered by the community before the survey commences.

This can be conveyed to the study in any form – including through face-to-face meetings, phone conversations, written submissions (hard-copy or electronic), presentations, previous reports, existing research, video messages...the choice is yours.

I'm aware that a number of local organisations have 'cross-over' membership. In these cases, a joint submission may be a time-saving option.

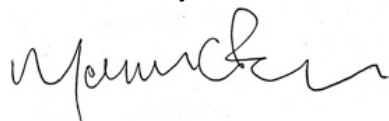
In order to ensure your organisation's input is presented to the community before the community consultation and survey commences, I'll need to receive it before 22 January 2018. Information submitted after this date will be considered by the study, but its dissemination to the wider community may be limited.

I have enclosed with this letter the following to assist with your response:

- i) Some questions that might assist in formulating a response. This is provided as guidance only. Your organisation's input can be in any form and cover any relevant issue.
- ii) A two-page overview of the study, which includes a list of issues that will be considered as part of the study (not exhaustive)

There is more background information on the study website www.brunylife.com and please feel free to email me at admin@brunylife.com or call me on 0427 400106 to discuss any aspect of 'Bruny Life'.

Yours sincerely,



Mathew Fagan
Study Coordinator

The questions and example answers set out below are offered as guidance only. Your organisation's submission to Bruny Life can be in any format and cover any issue.

DIRECT IMPACTS OF YOUR ORGANISATION'S OPERATIONS IN RELATION TO 'LIVEABILITY'

1. How does your organisation impact positively on the lives of Bruny Islanders?

- *e.g. (business organisation) We employ 2 locals and spend about \$15,000 a year on local goods.*
- *e.g. (service) Our services help to keep Islanders in good health and deal with health emergencies.*
- *e.g. (community organisation) We provide an important source of recreation that brings families together.*

2. Do you know of any perceptions about the impact of your organisation's operations on Bruny Islanders that may cause concerns? If so, what are these and what is your response to these perceptions?

- *e.g. (business) We often import sand and gravel by truck which can take up space on the ferry. However, we try to ensure that these deliveries are outside peak times.*
- *e.g. (service) There are concerns that our staff turnover is too high. In fact our turnover is the same as similar services in other rural communities and we have a new strategy to increase retention.*
- *e.g. (community) Some people get upset that when we meet we're too loud and take up too much car parking space. We do our best to minimise this impact and it only happens once per fortnight.*

3. Are there any 'liveability' issues on Bruny that impact on your organisation's operations, whether positively or negatively?

- *e.g. (business) It's difficult to recruit new staff due to our remoteness and the lack of affordable rental accommodation. The local staff we do have are great.*
- *e.g. (service) The ageing population of Bruny puts an increased strain on our service when compared to other locations in Tasmania. On the other hand, local people are actively engaged in the service, which helps our staff.*
- *e.g. (community) New people who move to the Island don't understand that we've been doing our activities for many years and they want us to change. We have traditions we want to keep going. But overall, Bruny is very supportive of community groups.*

BROADER PERSPECTIVES ON BRUNY ISLAND 'LIVEABILITY'

4. What do you see as the main liveability issues impacting on the people who live, work and own property on Bruny right now? Can you provide any evidence or examples that show why these issues are important?

- *e.g. The lack of working aged residents is a major issue. The evidence for this is in the 2016 Census. We have also directly experienced this problem when trying to recruit staff. We'd prefer employing locals in favour of backpackers who come and go but at the moment we have no choice.*

5. What do you see as the main liveability issues that will impact on the people who live, work and own property on Bruny in the future?

- *e.g. If we don't get more working age people moving to Bruny we're going to have serious issues maintaining a vibrant community in 5-10 years time. This is not only about staff for businesses, it's also about keeping our community organisations vibrant, our school numbers up and having people who can provide services to the elderly and frail who want to stay living on the Island.*

6. Please provide any specific ideas for addressing the current or future issues you have identified at (4) and (5) that you'd like to be considered by the rest of the community. Please consider how these solutions could be practically implemented (including cost) and what impact there might be on other people and organisations.

- *(e.g) We think there needs to be a campaign to attract working age families to Bruny. This could be paid for by a mix of private and government funding. We would need to consider how to get sufficient accommodation, perhaps by reaching out to owners of unoccupied shacks which aren't used for holiday lettings. Having a bigger permanent population of younger people will have mostly positive impacts, including for the school and local clubs, but it could place strains on services, which would need to be managed. There is also a need to help families when their kids want to go to College – there should be a plan developed with Woodbridge High School to deliver Year 11 and 12 to Bruny students so families don't move because of this issue.*

bruny life.

Bruny Island Liveability Study 2017-18

A quick overview

16 November 2017

Over the next five months, all Bruny Islanders will be asked for their views about living and working on Bruny and what's needed to make sure Bruny is a great place to live for many years to come. The official name of the process is the 'Bruny Island Liveability Study'. To keep things simple, it'll also be called 'Bruny Life'. The study is being overseen by the Bruny Island Advisory Committee (BIAC).

There'll be lots of questions about 'Bruny Life' and some answers are set out below. If the information you're looking for is not included here, don't worry. There'll be plenty of opportunities to ask as many questions as you like during 'Bruny Life' discussions to be held all over the Island. You can also ask questions through the 'Bruny Life' Facebook page, the 'Bruny Life' website and by direct email to the coordinator.

Why do we need it? What's so special about Bruny?

Bruny Island is not only unique because of its beautiful natural environment and access by ferry (although this is a big part of what makes Bruny special). The last Census showed that Bruny has other characteristics that make it unique when compared to the rest of Kingborough and Tasmania. Bruny has an older population, a larger proportion of unoccupied dwellings, more men than women, lower household income, higher home ownership, more people living alone and less people accessing the internet, when compared to the 'norm'. When you throw in almost 150,000 visitors per year to an island with a resident population of just over 800, it's pretty clear why Bruny has unique challenges and opportunities to work through.

What's the point of another 'study'?

No one wants 'Bruny Life' to be 'yet another report' that takes up a lot of everyone's time and then just sits on a shelf. There are some things that BIAC are doing to make sure this doesn't happen.

- Local people will determine the outcomes. 'Bruny Life' is not a report written by outside 'experts'. It is about providing all people who live and work on Bruny with the opportunity to have their say about what matters to themselves, their families, their workplaces, their environment and their communities. The outcomes might be what everyone expects, or they might surprise us, but they'll be a genuine reflection of local people.
- Local people will deliver the project. In addition to oversight by local people on BIAC, all of the researchers involved in 'Bruny Life' will be people who live and work on the island. Having worked on the project, these locals and their families will want to see the results implemented.
- Proposals will be home-grown, big and small. 'Bruny Life' will focus on suggesting practical and achievable proposals, based on the things that matter to local people. Some of these might require funding from government or the private sector, others will be able to be implemented by the community itself.
- Council and State Government are on-board. The Kingborough Council and the Tasmanian State Government are paying the costs of BIAC's study, because they want proposals that have strong and widespread community support. This doesn't mean that everything local people want will get delivered or funded, but it does mean that both local and state government have 'skin in the game'.
- A permanent resource. All of the public information that's used in the study will be stored on the 'Bruny Life' website and be available for download. For those who don't have access to the internet, there'll be hard copies available through local organisations, including the library and the Council offices. The website will also track how 'Bruny Life' proposals are implemented, so everyone can find out what's happened and what hasn't.

Who is the Bruny Island Advisory Committee?

BIAC includes a diverse group of people from all over the Island that advise Kingborough Council on council-related matters. The committee members are from the local Bruny community and one member is a councillor from Kingborough Council. All the local members are active in other groups and associations on the Island. They all care deeply about our community and its future. You can see more about the members at:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/council/committees/>

What type of things will be considered?

For Bruny Islanders, 'liveability' means many different things depending on interest, personal circumstances and outlooks on life. The issue of increased tourist visitation to Bruny is one that gets a lot of media attention and it will be an important part of 'Bruny Life'. There are many other issues that get less attention, but are just as important to many Islanders. Issues that have been raised in the past include:

- *Emergency services*
- *Ferry access and reliability*
- *Supporting our ageing population*
- *Protecting our land and marine environment*
- *Opportunities for regular paid work on the Island*
- *Keeping volunteer groups and services going*
- *Adequate infrastructure for Islanders and visitors*
- *Supporting Islanders who feel isolated*
- *Ensuring sustainable development*
- *Good state services like health, education and police*
- *Good municipal services, like waste and local roads*
- *Attracting young people and families*
- *Mobility, including public transport options*
- *Adequate housing and accommodation options*
- *Maintaining farms and primary production*
- *Supporting artists, musicians, artisans and writers*
- *Participating in sport and recreation activities*
- *A successful, diversified local economy*
- *Development that 'fits' with the Island*
- *Keeping our Island's positive 'brand'*
- *The impact of higher property prices*
- *Access to digital and mobile services*
- *Regular events and activities for all ages*
- *Getting along with each other*
- *Making the most of what we already have*
- *Having a happy and peaceful life*

These are just some of the matters to be considered as part of 'Bruny Life'. Local people are sure to raise more. Many issues are inter-related and it will be important to discuss how 'fixing' one issue might impact on other things.

What's the process?

'Bruny Life' will roll out in six steps from November 2017 to April 2018.

- Step 1: The first period before Christmas 2017 is about **preparation**, including setting up communications, informing people about the study, recruiting local researchers and collecting information that has already been produced and making it available to the community.
- Step 2: **Local organisations** will have their say about 'liveability' issues, including through interviews and submissions. This information will be made available to the community.
- Step 3: Local researchers, representative of all locations and demographics in the community, will organise a range of **local discussions** about 'Bruny Life', where people who live and work on the Island can share information, views and solutions. Some discussions will be 'town hall meetings', others will be in more informal settings. The results of each discussion will be incorporated into the study.
- Step 4: After everyone has had the opportunity to consider all the available information, there'll be a **community survey**, distributed through the mail to every household (including permanent and part-time residents) and available online.
- Step 5: The **issues, ideas, solutions, priorities and recommendations** generated from the community will be compiled in a 'Bruny Life' report, available in printed and online formats. Drafts of the report will be made available to the community for comment, to make sure nothing has been missed.
- Step 6: BIAC and other local organisations will **monitor the implementation** of 'Bruny Life', with regular updates to the community on progress.

Who's coordinating the study?

In October/November 2017, Kingborough Council undertook an Expression of Interest process for contractors to implement the Bruny Island Liveability Study. As a result, the Council appointed Mr Mathew Fagan, with endorsement from the Bruny Island Advisory Committee. Mathew is an experienced consultant who's worked throughout Australia in the fields of community engagement, strategic planning, service delivery design, infrastructure needs analysis, research and professional writing. He has degrees in law and communications. He also happens to live permanently on Bruny Island.

How much is it costing?

The Department of State Growth and Kingborough Council are each contributing \$25,000, including in-kind support from Council staff. The funds will pay the costs of a contractor to coordinate 'Bruny Life' and employ local community researchers on a casual basis. It will also pay for the cost of communications, transport, equipment, online and postal surveys, the 'Bruny Life' website and the publication of the final report.

Where can I get more information?

Website: www.brunylife.com
Email: admin@brunylife.com

Facebook: 'Bruny Life' community page
Telephone: 0427 400106 (Mathew Fagan, Coordinator)