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Executive Summary

In this report, the area of discussion is Bilby Landscape and environment issues. Bilby is one of the beautiful towns of Australia due to numerous factors. Some of the key features of Bilby are environment, beautiful tourist attractions, locations, hotels, mountains, rivers and so forth. Bilby has everything and all the potential that is required to make this place a wonderful place for tourist but there is a need of some more attention on the problem areas of the town.

According to my opinion, some significant problems may restrict young people, families and other tourists and developments plans such as hospitals, Boardwalks for the graveyard, bird hide observatory over wetlands & Further Wind farms on Bilby Plateau, extension to the museum, and leisure centers. To save and enhance features of this town, Bendalong Regional and Tourism Authority (BRTA) should take strict steps for the preservation and development and maintenance of farmlands, plants, fields, roads, shopping center near the residential areas and other environmental issues. Once, few areas such as landscaping, infrastructure, ecotourism project, environment, water issues, and site issues are planned and successfully implemented then there will be multi-speed economy in this particular area. In short, Bilby has been developed but there is a big potential for improvements and developments in this area as yet.

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1. Introduction

There are many naturally rich countries on the earth and Australia is one of those countries. In reality, it is a great country from any point of view. It is one of the fast and advanced countries of the globe. Given the controversy of the proposed hospital development from the side of stakeholders, now stakeholders want to see the overall present state and future directions of the town in the form of a research report before going ahead. This research report will be based on the landscape of the town in relation to current and future tourism state of the town. On the basis of this research and evaluation report, stakeholders may decide to take further steps towards development of this particular hospital and other future proposed projects and developments.

Currently, Bilby is considered as a good place for tourism from the point of view of healthy sports clubs, restaurants, pubs, Walking areas, Agostini's vineyard, Monthly organic farmers' market, Material Design Special Sales half yearly, March and September, Street life Carnival weekly, August to October, Autumn Gold Festival March long weekend, and Film locations for City Stresses Country Pleasures. Bendalong Regional Tourism Authority (BRTA) is looking forward to build a hospital worth \$127 million dollar, its Infrastructure and initial development is complete, and other actual construction is to be completed within next three months time (Mossmate1936).

2. Environment

This town has always had an interest in preserving its beautiful environment, one of the major features of its tranquility and attractiveness to tourists. There is a great stand of local eucalypts in the state forest which includes the water catchment area and dam (check out the picnic ground and the views over the dam).

Bibly is one of the famous and suitable places to visit because of its beautiful environment. One of the main features of its environment is its wetlands adjacent to graveyard. This area is preserved and retained from flora and fauna automatically which

is a rare case and it is preserved due to wetlands. There are other significant places of the area such as growling grass frogs which is another highlight of cool environment of Bilby. This proximity to the graveyard has led to that area becoming a habitat for the growling grass frog, which is now endangered throughout the state.

According to the environmental study conducted by an independent company EnviroManagement, this study was commissioned by Bilby Land care, in this study it was clearly identified and observed that growling grass frog is available in the waterhole and in the graveyard. These frogs can be died which is a rare animal all over Australia. This study also observed that the landscape has been degraded by using imported seeds in the plants, fields and farms.

3. Land care

Bilby is one those areas of Australia where a lot of landscaping has been done. BRTA has done a lot of developments in this area, for the development of areas of Australia and particularly Bilby business, community and government is doing combine struggle. Bilby is situated in a narrow valley, and on a rich, well-watered plateau overlooking the valley and the Valley River. Bilby valley has several good and few bad areas which can be developed to attract more and more visitors. This valley has become a good place for tourist and because of the development in the areas like small farms on the plateau where farmers grew food and pasture crops.

Many forces and groups such as bushcare and urban landcare, rivercare, coastcare and sustainable agriculture groups are putting their efforts to retain the beauty of this town. In this regard, they have been much successful but some major issues and problems are there in environment and landcare point of view which can restrict tourist and developments in this town.

4. Town Issues

- There is a proper sight issue for the hospital.

- Water requirements of the town are not still met.
- Wastewater problems are there due to increasing capacity to support both the hospital and a projected population growth of 35%.
- Long distance shopping areas from residential places.
- Difficult approach to the town due to steep dirt tracks.
- Problems related to the encroachment of grasslands and forest areas.
- Environment issues such as solar power for lighting purpose to run proposed projects like hospital.

5. Significant Features

Apart from individual and combine efforts of the people living in these areas, this area is growing quickly in terms of economy. The big impact of tourism is on unemployment rate which is decreased from 9.5% to 5.9%.

Business, private homes, commercial and small constructions have shown significant improvements.

Farmlands, waterways, coast, boating, mountains, rivers, gardens, trees, wildlife habitats have been preserved and improved significantly.

Pleasant sports, shopping sites, events, festivals, walking areas, and other conventional features still exist in this town (See Appendix).

6. Recommendations and Suggestions:

Bilby can be recommended for investment, tour, and adventure because of its beautiful places, environment, gardens and greenery, river sites, boating, forestry, and proposed projects.

It is a small town but there are still so many points in its favor, it is not so far from the main cities such as Melbourne. It also has all the basic facilities for living life and tours.

This town also needs to incorporate more relaxed and leisurely activities into its portfolio. Farm tourism is one area that Bilby can excel, becoming a regional destination for families and individuals interested in orchards and other agriculture products Bilby is famous for.

The BRTA should make sure that its Web site adequately publicizes the annual events related to farm tourism as well.

Overall, with few developments and improvements in the resources this area can become a wonderful place for tourist all over Australia within few months time.

There are few key suggestions that should be done for the purpose of development and rehabilitation of this town and these suggestions are as under:

- Carpet roads.
- Control over river floods.
- High Standard Parks.
- Develop Lakes around significant sites.
- Incorporate latest techniques in preservation of lands and land care.
- Keep marketing and promoting the area on big levels.
- Improved historical museums.
- There is a need of more attention on this area.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8. "Appendix 1"

Bendalong Beacon

bendalongbeacon.com.au

ESTABLISHED IN 1899

WEATHER: BENDALONG REGION: FINE MAX: 26. STATE WEATHER: PAGE 29. \$1:00

Too High a Price for Growth

by Bernie Hirst

The joys of living in the Bendalong district are obvious. There is the glorious sunshine, the strong sense of community, the booming tourist industry thanks to nearby Bilby. Look at the TV show 'City Stresses Country Pleasures' and you can see why so many people want to come and live here. But is this show leading to problems we hadn't considered? Last week there was a coroner's inquest into a car accident and resultant death. We have quite a few of them over a year - too many.

This one was particularly difficult, because it involved one of our local football and cricket heroes. And he shouldn't have died. John Adams was just 18 when he got into his car two weeks ago, after a football game in Bilby. He'd played a good game. He hadn't been drinking because he was on his P plates. That's the sort of young man he was, a good sportsman, law-abiding. His family have a farm just off the Bendalong-Bilby Rd, and John had been working there in the morning before the game. He was tired, his concentration wasn't good, and he was inexperienced. Not a good combination. It was made worse by the condition of the Bendalong-Bilby Road. Since the enormous increase in traffic into Bilby, both on weekends and with the new residents, most of the local roads have deteriorated. The Coroner Wesley Snapps made a point of expressing his concern,

as he outlined how John Adams had lost control of the car when it hit a series of potholes at Swales Corner, and eventually hit a tree. He died instantly. The coroner had heard that the Shire Council was informed by an engineer's report late last year that this was an accident 'hotspot'. According to the report obtained by the Bendalong Beacon, recommendations included new barriers, a lower speed limit and repair and maintenance of the road surface. Henry Agostini, the mayor of Bilby Shire Council, was not available for comment. There is no doubt the TV show has increased our population, developed our business opportunities and put the region on the map. But the Shire Council has to keep up with the infrastructure by maintaining roads and developing facilities. It should not be growth at all costs - the life of John Adams is definitely too high a price to pay.



The twisted remains of the car in which local football hero John Adams tragically lost his life two weeks ago.



Editorial:
by Jan Lee

Page 2

Global reputation beckons for Bendalong
by Henry Wheatley

Report, Page 3

[close window](#)

Source: (Hirst 1899, p.3).

9. Appendix "2"

The Bilby Tribunal - Google Chrome

www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/creative/writing/deakinopolis/bilby/files/mediaPages/tribunalHome.htm

Bilby Tribunal
bbtribunal.com.au


\$1:00

PRINTED IN BILBY SINCE 1936

**EDITORIAL**
...gap in this town
between 'haves'
and 'have-nots'

**PAGE 3 STORY**
New Museum
for Bilby

**SPORT**
Football
scores and
more

GRAVEYARD SHOCK

Hospital Plans Sweep Aside Bilby Graveyard

Fern Mossmate

Growth in Bilby has become the norm – we delight in seeing the new shops, the shopping mall, a sense of history being created as we watch. But what is the potential cost of this growth? And who is in charge of it?

It is nothing new to have decisions made by our Bilby Shire Council – it is a part of their job to provide infrastructure and make decisions to match the growth of our town

Hospital plans... potentially a threat to the fabric of our community

However, there has been no consultation about the new hospital and where it should be built. The potential building on the graveyard site is an issue which threatens to split the community of Bilby and is a threat to the fabric of our community. The current plans provide for a new three storey hospital to be built to replace our ageing and overcrowded Bush Nursing Hospital. That's necessary, without doubt. Bilby's population is now at approximately 19,000, and there are many new families and other settlers moving to the district. In fact, it's very good to see a lot of the old shops in Main Street getting a facelift, and to see young families enjoying the lifestyle of Bilby. However our history is encapsulated in that graveyard. The primary school conducts excursions there each term. As the principal Marilyn Perlman stated, 'the children read the gravestones, imagine what it feels like to have a family devastated by typhoid or little babies not surviving. It makes a story that they identify with, it shows them Bilby's difficult early times.'

Did you know the famous bushranger Ben Travis is buried in Bilby? Or that our well-known local identify Myfanwy Fallenby has five generations of Welsh ancestors in that graveyard? It is even problematic to consider how a building can be constructed over a graveyard site anyway. What about toxic soil issues?

Where will the graves be relocated? There are just too many questions. The Bilby Shire Council has stated quite clearly that the funding needs to be allocated quickly. Bendalong has already expressed interest in redeveloping their own hospital using the funds if Bilby can't agree on a site. But it would be a disaster to rush into a decision on such a complex issue without further consultation with the key groups in our town. There have been no public meetings to explain alternatives, no investigations into different sites. It is simply not good enough – our civic leaders need to communicate properly and involve us all in such a major change for this community.



Historic resting places at risk once Bilby's new hospital plans come to life.

— close window —

Source: (Mossmate 1936).