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Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 2:13 PM
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Subject: Appeal to reject Lumina Proposal within Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

15 Currong St
Kenmore,

Q4069.
15th August 2023

Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane,
GPO Box 2287,
Brisbane, QLD 4001

Dear Mr Shrinner,

Re: BCC Approval (DA A006083027) of Lumina by Light Dreaming, within The Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

I am writing to you to register my great concern that Light Dreaming have been given approval to go ahead with a Lumina Light and Sound Show, despite widespread opposition to the proposal. As a qualified ecologist and experienced gardener, my most important concerns are the following:

- In the **Material Change of Use**, it has been approved as an **Environmental Facility**. Light Dreaming as described in its Lunina proposal, is **not an Environmental Facility** in any shape or form. In fact, there are many aspects of the **Tourist Facility** that would be contrary to the purposes of the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens (MCBG). These gardens are a museum of living plants and suitable only for passive recreation, education, and research. They are the premier gardens for Queensland. Unlike most other Botanic Gardens in Australia, it has representative areas of subtropical ecosystems from several regions in the world as well as those native to south-east Queensland. Of particular note, is the largest collection of rainforest trees in any Botanic Garden in Australia.
- The proposed Explorer Trail to be used by Lumina, has the most structurally diverse and mature ecosystems. All the rate payers of Brisbane have paid for MCBG since its inception in the early 1970's and continue to contribute to its maintenance and improvements. It has always been free to visit and no exclusive

private enterprise such as Lumina should be given special use within the Gardens from 6-11pm on about 164 nights a year.

- From a practical viewpoint, there is insufficient clear space along the trail for the proposed number of night tourists (up to 2,400/night) to fit into the 8 hub areas where most of the sound and light shows will be located. With such large numbers of visitors there may be damage to the vegetation not to mention the discarding of litter along the trail. Thieving of special plants in dark areas is also possible, as there are unlikely to be sufficient security staff paid to monitor all the visitors all the time.
- Australian native mammals (including microbats) found in the Gardens are nocturnal, and many plants are food sources (leaves, flowers, fruits, and insects), irrespective of whether the plants are native to Australia or not. Lumina has undertaken no comprehensive studies of the plants and animals of this area nor how light and sound would affect their activities, populations and, in the case of plants, their reproduction. Many trees are pollinated at night by flying insects as well by as nocturnal mammals, which will be disturbed by the proposed shows. Such disturbance may also affect the hunting activity of nocturnal birds such as the threatened Powerful Owl.
- When reading the approval letter for Light Dreaming, I was most concerned that BCC only imposed restrictions on Lumina operations in respect to Planetarium activities but failed to address the impacts on Auditorium activities. Not-for-profit organisations use the auditorium for exhibitions, on most weekends of the year and are a major attraction for the Gardens. In some instances, the groups require access beyond 5pm on Fridays and Saturdays to set up displays, conduct judging of competition entries and replenish stalls. Denying entry after 5pm may result in exhibitions not being held. Giving priority to a private enterprise over the long-standing not-for-profit exhibitions is unconscionable.
- The Lumina Sound and Light Show in Brisbane's precious Botanic Gardens should be rejected as being a surplus attraction to the city's need. There are already two other Sound and Light Shows, one in the Roma St Parklands one month prior to Christmas (produced by Royal Caribbean), and the other in the City Gardens (produced by Lightscaapes) during the Brisbane Festival in September-October. Both are for a limited time, are in the CBD in more visitor-friendly environments, are well away from any natural vegetation and are easy to access by public transport or car. The Lumina proposal has none of these advantages. If the Lumina project is predicted to be so profitable why not simply expand one or other of the existing operations?

I sincerely urge the Council to reconsider this ill-conceived Tourist attraction. The BCC elections are only 7 months away and with extensive publicity, it is unlikely the rate payers will look kindly on this proposal. Council may recall what happened regarding the Zipline proposal only 3.5 years ago. Brisbane's population has a great love of the MCBG as demonstrated by the fact that it is the 2nd most popular public space in Brisbane. The Gardens should be treated as a jewel in the crown of the city, not as just another money-making opportunity. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Sandercoe.

Cc Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

Deputy Mayor Krista Adams

Cr Greg Adermann

Opposition Leader Jared Cassidy

Cr Katrina Massey Greens Party

Michael Berkman MLA Member for Maiwar

Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP Member for Ryan