



DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: 27th November 2019

GLAMP AMONGST THE ANIMALS

A farm stay camping & glamping development, which aims to create 52 full time jobs and inject 6.5million dollars into the local economy, was given the green light today by Bundaberg Regional Council.

Splitters Farm will begin works immediately on the construction of forty powered camp sites, an amenities block, camp kitchen and eight glamping tents, which will see the current tourist attraction officially open their camping options by June 2020.

Purchased by Ashley & Carly Clark in 2017, the 160-acre Sharon based property, just a 10-minute drive north of Bundaberg, is an idyllic bush setting, bordered by its namesake Splitters Creek.

Councillor Helen Blackburn welcomes the planning decision which will provide economical accommodation options for people staying in the region and at the same time allow them to experience the beautiful and unique surroundings of the Splitters Creek area.

Home to native animals such as wallabies, platypus, barramundi, prehistoric lung fish and over 150 documented species of Australian bird life, co-owner Carly Clark says "It's a dream destination for hikers and kayakers. It's also a favourite spot for local fisherman who come to catch-n-release bass."

Carly and her husband Ashley purchased Splitters Farm in mid-2017 to give their five children the benefit of a rural upbringing and an understanding and of 'hard work'. Carly explains "We've put a lot of blood, sweat & tears into fixing fences and getting the run-down old farm into shape but it's so rewarding."

Carly, who grew up on acreage herself in South Western Sydney is also a self-confessed 'bleeding heart' when it comes to animals. "Once we had our fences repaired, we began taking in rescue animals from around the region. Many of which are victims of the drought or because they had been abused or neglected.

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Some have also had a change of circumstances because their owners had to sell their acreage and move into town. It's been a tough few years for anyone on the land and we're now supplement feeding and caring for over 180 rescue animals as a result. The vet loves us!"

Splitters Farm recently began conducting weekend walking tours, so families had an opportunity to meet and feed the rescue animals. All proceeds from the tours being reinvested back into feeding the animals and to cover their ongoing veterinary costs.

In addition to receiving rave reviews locally on Facebook & TripAdvisor, the farm tours are also attracting a lot of interest from overseas visitors.

"We're getting visitors as far afield as Taiwan & Hong Kong and had guests recently from the Sunshine Coast who said they'd come to Bundaberg just to see Splitters Farm after following our story online. It made us sit back and think.....hey we've really created something special here."

Bundaberg Tourism CEO Katherine Reid said of the planned development, "The Splitters Farm experience will be a welcome addition to the Bundaberg Region, and the 8 luxury safari tents will provide much needed diversity in the regions accommodation offering. It also conveys a strong commitment to deliver a rural, nature-based and environmentally sustainable visitor experience on the doorstep to the Great Southern Barrier Reef"

She continues, "Splitters Farm offers a family-friendly rural adventure in the real Aussie bush, only 10 minutes from the Bundaberg CBD and I congratulate the owners on their commitment demonstrated to the development of our destination."

Splitters Farm is currently open weekends for their 'Meet the Animals' tours and plans are in place to welcome guests for overnight camping from June 2020.

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