

COUNCIL REFERENCE:
CONTACT PERSON:
YOUR REF:

3A08/1008 (D12/154002)
Russ Pigg

2 July 2012

Mr S Haddad
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
PO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Mr Haddad,

This is to confirm that Shoalhaven City Council fully supports the proposed Shaolin Temple tourism development on the "Comberton Grange" property near Jervis Bay.

I understand that the Department of Planning & Infrastructure is not yet in a position to determine the application, however, Council looks forward to an eventual positive outcome.

This project has enormous potential to inject significant capital investment into the State of NSW, with resultant job creation and tourism, particularly overseas visitors, boosting the local, regional and State economy.

The Shoalhaven Tourism Board, in a letter to Council, has described the project in the following terms –

"The Development will include the construction of temples, accommodation for the Abbot and Monks, a library, an amphitheatre, a multicultural Centre, a 500 room four star hotel, a convention centre to seat 1,500 people, external entertainment facilities for 4000 people and a 27 hole golf course.

60 Million people world wide follow the Shaolin Buddhist Philosophy. It is reasonable to assume that 150,000 international visitors will come to the Shaolin Temple Shoalhaven per annum.

In addition it is estimated that there will be 300,000 visitors from Australian per annum.

These visitors will stay at the Temple and other existing accommodation establishments throughout the Shoalhaven.

Assuming that target is only achieved to the 75% mark then if the temple only accommodates the international visitors it will achieve 82% occupancy once it is in full operation. The balance of the international visitation and all of the domestic visitation can easily be accommodated in the rest of the Shoalhaven which currently accommodates 1.4 million domestic visitors per annum recording just over 5 million visitors nights.

The economic impact on Shoalhaven City will be significant.

Visitors	Number	Average Length of Stay	Average Expenditure Per Trip	Total
International	150,000	4.09	\$495	\$74,250,000
Domestic:	300,000	3.52	\$324	\$97,200,000
Total For Shoalhaven				\$171,450,000
International	150,000	17	\$1,462 in NSW	\$219,300,000
Domestic:	300,000			
	36.9% from Interstate	3.52	\$324	\$35,900,00
Domestic	300,000			
	63.1% captured from escape spending	3.52	\$324	\$61,300,000
Total for NSW (Including Shoalhaven)				\$316,500,000

Impact on Jobs

The additional expenditure generated by the increased visitation in New South Wales because of the Shaolin Temple will cause, directly and indirectly, an additional 3,400 permanent full time or full time equivalent jobs. Of these approximately half will be in the Shoalhaven or surrounding regions with the supply of goods and services.

Seasonality

It is anticipated that the Shaolin Temple will be free of seasonality in that it will generate visitation from the international arena and generate visitation from devotees from throughout Australia. This even spread of visitation will be easily accommodated within the existing tourism infrastructure expect during peak seasons and will provide a better utilisation of both public and private assets."

With outcomes such as this, any dispensation or assistance the State Government can provide to Shaolin Temple (Australia) Co Ltd to ensure the development proceeds will be repaid many times over, through the economic returns to the State's economy.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephoning 02 4429 3260.

Yours faithfully

Russ Pigg
General Manager