



**Adjournment Speech  
GLEN ELMES  
Member for Noosa**

**Hansard, 25 November 2008**

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**EcoBiz**

Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (9.43 pm): I rise tonight to speak about some good environmental news in the Noosa electorate. I recently had the pleasure of attending an awards ceremony here in the parliamentary precinct in which three Noosa organisations were recognised for their successes in the ecoBiz partnership program. I congratulate the minister, Andrew McNamara, on this excellent initiative between councils and the EPA which aims to help Queensland businesses and industries achieve resource-efficient practices that are good for both their financial bottom line and the environment.

In these times of increased vigilance over the use of our resources, it is good news indeed to know that there is a simple, financially viable way of examining energy, water and materials usage and then doing more with less. The ecoBiz program provides this simple methodology which defines resource costs in terms of units of production by using specifically designed software. The business can then highlight areas of improvement as well as calculate payback periods. There are a total of 29 Noosa companies participating in the ecoBiz program, and I would like to congratulate the three organisations that have recently been recognised.

Halse Lodge, a Heritage Trust listed backpacker accommodation lodge which services over 37,000 bed nights per year, has shown a 24 per cent reduction in water usage by installing simple yet effective low-flow devices. Recycling habits have changed through the education of staff and guests, and greenhouse gas reduction overall is six tonnes per year. Financially, Halse Lodge is saving 26 per cent in waste and 16 per cent in water costs per guest per night.

The Tewantin Noosa RSL provides an outstanding commitment to around 200,000 patrons per year. The RSL has been achieving significant financial savings, including a 27 per cent reduction in waste and recycling costs. Their most outstanding achievement is a 1.3 million litre reduction in consumption of potable water per year. According to Phil Stevenson, the CEO, the club has been working with the program for 18 months and is delighted with the results.

Noosa Care Inc. is responsible for the management of the Carramar Home for the Aged, and their property manager, Greg Crawford, has informed me that they have achieved a saving of 43 per cent in water usage per resident per day, which is an extraordinary statistic. All these savings have occurred through simple steps such as changing light globes, recycling office paper, educating staff and mulching garden beds. I am proud of these remarkable businesses, as well as the others that have been participating in the Noosa Electorate. It proves yet again that even in poor economic times environmental responsibility improves the business bottom line and benefits everyone.

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