



9 September 2009

ELMES CONGRATULATES BЛИGH - ?

Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes congratulated Premier Anna Bligh on her promise that no further forced council amalgamations would take place. (*Courier Mail 9/9/09*).

"This is the all important first step in a two part plan which I urge the government to implement. The second part is for Anna Bligh and her government to understand the damage they have done to many communities in the state and the hurt caused to ordinary Queenslanders by her government's dictatorial and undemocratic actions by forcing council amalgamations.

"The Premier should now move to de-amalgamate those areas in the State where this process has clearly failed, and the former Noosa Shire is an outstanding example of that." Glen Elmes said.

"This is typical of the Bligh Labor Government's fiscal mismanagement. They made available just \$27 million to fund the entire amalgamation process with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council requiring \$13 million out of a total of \$185 million, the total cost estimated by the Local Government Association of Queensland to finance these legislative changes.

"The financial black hole is only half the story. The other half is the human cost: the reduction in council services to ratepayers, the absence of grass roots representation by councillors and the destruction of community pride in Noosa that had built up over a century.

"There is no doubting that amalgamation for some councils in some areas has worked...it has not worked in Noosa and will not work in Noosa.

"The Premier should realise this and allow for the formation of a Greater Noosa Shire which will be financially secure and an example to the rest of the State on what it is to be a sustainable and environmentally proud local authority, as was the old Noosa Shire." ENDS

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