



\$450 A DAY FOR ICONIC PANEL MEMBERS

31 July 2008

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes revealed today that he had been reliably informed that the daily fee for the Noosa Iconic Panel members was in excess of \$450 each per day.

"I find it bizarre that Anna Bligh's Labor Government considers the daily rate paid to members of the Noosa Iconic Panel to be some kind of state secret.

"Anna Bligh talks about openness and accountability in her government but delivers none and the iconic legislation which no-one in the old Noosa Shire wanted is a perfect example of this Labor Government's lack of transparency.

"If, as it has been suggested the panel meets once per week then the cost for each member, together with the hours put in by our Councillors, council support staff, secretarial fees and other meeting costs, it is not hard to envisage a yearly bill to the ratepayer of something like \$150,000 for a service that council already provided as part of its corporate service.

"Additional meeting days would result in the costs being a greater farce than they already are.

"As I have said before, if it's fair enough for politicians, nurses, teachers, police and others to have - as they should - their pay scales a matter of the public record then surely with this controversial panel everything, including the rate at which they are paid, should be available for all to see.

"The iconic panel is the end result of a flight of fancy, thought up by Peter Beattie and executed by Anna Bligh. It is another level of bureaucracy forced on the ratepayers of Noosa by the State Labor Government. ENDS

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