



20 AUGUST 2007

A PLEA FOR SANITY

Following the release of data from a newspaper's online poll comes the news that 98% of Noosa residents are against the merger with Maroochy and Caloundra. Additional evidence, if any was needed, of the Shire's opinion. The Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, said that this latest result gives even further credence to the determination by Noosa residents to maintain their own identity in a stand-alone council.

"We've had the petition of 18,747 signatures; we've had 31,000 submissions to the Local Government Reform Commission; we had between 7,000 - 10,000 Noosa Shire residents march on Parliament House and now we have this online poll as yet another indicator to the Premier.

"The Noosa Shire isn't a financial basket case, in fact it is in the top 10 of financially sound local authorities in the state. The Shire respects its environment, is socially responsible and has a community which is very proud and determined to maintain its sustainable future" Glen Elmes said.

"The Local Government and Planning Minister, Andrew Fraser, himself said that if there were 156 councils in Queensland like Noosa there would be no need for local government reform. So, on the eve of this week's Parliamentary sessions, I would ask the Premier and the Minister to look at the facts and hear the voice of the people and to propose an amendment this week to amend the legislation and allow Noosa to continue on its own very successful course.

"I believe that the time for the Premier to be a politician has gone and the time for him to become a statesman has arrived. I hope he is up to the challenge". **ENDS**

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