



3 August 2007

BEATTIE'S MINISTERS WRONG AGAIN

Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes says "It is obvious that a new campaign is under way by some sections of the Beattie Labor Ministry to discredit Noosa's continuing struggle to remain a stand-alone local government authority.

Recent media releases from the Minister of Tourism, Margaret Keech and Local Government and Planning Minister Andrew Fraser, claim that the Noosa community has nothing to worry about and, in the case of Andrew Fraser, who says in his release that "I guarantee that the unique characteristics of Noosa and Port Douglas can and will be protected."

Glen Elmes commented that "if Andrew Fraser gave a guarantee that the sun would rise in the east tomorrow morning, I would know to immediately seek expert opinions on the claim from sources well outside Labor Government circles.

"Andrew Fraser has proved that he is not up to the task of reforming Local Governments and is more intent on pursuing his own ambition in becoming Premier by trying, and failing, to become the new Labor Tough Man.

In the case of Noosa's tourism industry, I personally took a delegation of Noosa business people to meet with Margaret Keech to explain the potential losses to this industry, which is valued at more than \$900 million per year. Minister Keech knows very well that the separate and individual marketing of the Noosa icon creates enormous employment and business opportunities for the Shire. I would expect, as a senior Minister, that she would be standing up for an industry that she supposedly represents" Glen Elmes said.

"The level of deceit and deceptions practiced by the Labor Government in their dealings with Noosa's genuine concerns is breathtaking and I will be using every opportunity I have to remind the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government, of the consequences of their actions when Parliament resumes on Tuesday" Glen Elmes said. **ENDS**

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