



**3 April 2008**

## **BLIGH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS DESAL THREAT ON COAST**

In September last year Member for Noosa Glen Elmes released a statement warning Coast residents that the Bligh Labor Government was considering sites for the construction of desalination plants at Peregian, Marcoola Beach and other coastal sites.

At the time Deputy Premier Paul Lucas ridiculed the statement made by Glen Elmes however, just seven months later, those same sites have now been revealed by the same Minister to be included for consideration.

“As I predicted they have now come out with a proposal to build not one, not two but up to nine desalination plants between the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast even though the consultants initially ruled out potential sites on the Sunshine Coast because of land use criteria where any site was immediately adjacent to specific land zones such as residential, national parks and conservation land use.

“Peregian is a small, residential coastal village with the surf on its eastern boundary and a National Park just to the west. Where in heaven’s name could the infrastructure for a desalination plant be built in this environment and at what cost to the environment and to Peregian residents?

“Peregian is clearly not an option for a project of this type yet it remains sixth on the Government’s list.

Glen Elmes said he is not opposed to desalination plants but believes that none should be built unless sustainable energy, i.e. wind power, wave power, etc is used to power them. He also said that before there was any further planning for the siting of desalination plants, the government had to use every single drop of recycled water that currently being wasted, for farming and industrial purposes.

“Currently, 35 billion litres of recycled water is simply pumped into the ocean every year from the Sunshine Coast and the figure for Brisbane is around 100 billion litres.

“It is a complete nonsense to have outfall pipes pumping billions of litres of recycled water into the ocean every year and yet the government is now planning to build even more infrastructure and more pipes to pump treated salt water back for community use,” Glen Elmes said.

"I will be writing to Paul Lucas asking him what justification the Bligh Government has to even consider the inclusion of Peregian as a possible site for a desalination plant and I will then follow this up when Parliament resumes again in two week's time.

"I'd like to know what Coast residents feel about this issue so please visit my website at [www.glenelmes.com](http://www.glenelmes.com) and either lodge your vote - for or against - or provide me with your personal opinion on the proposal to construct a desalination plant at Peregian. ENDS

**Further information: Glen Elmes MP - 5449 8988 or 0400 800 114**

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