



13 FEBRUARY, 2008

Iconic Legislation tabled in Parliament

The *Iconic Queensland Places Bill 2008* was tabled yesterday in the Queensland Parliament.

"Unfortunately this bill is the total protection the Queensland Government is prepared to offer Noosa to replace the Noosa Shire Council." Glen Elmes, Member for Noosa, said today.

"After my initial consideration, I am concerned that this bill, if enacted, would not give sufficient protection to Noosa's lifestyle. The Labor Government has abolished the Noosa Shire Council, it has stripped it away the protection that has allowed Noosa residents to elect councillors to carry out their wishes. Instead the Minister will appoint up to five people of his or her choice to a panel who will be paid to make decisions. With the exception of one panel member, who will be a serving councillor, the members of the panel are answerable to no one except the Minister.

"I believe this panel is susceptible to political stacking, now and in the future, regardless of which political party is in power, because there is no transparency in the appointment process.

"Additionally the panel will work in duplication with the new 'Super-Council' by considering all applications. This leaves the panel option to be an inefficient proposal which, given the increased bureaucratic cost, gives us no additional benefit." Mr Elmes said.

"I have another concern in that the additional powers given to the Minister under this bill will see the Minister having the power to override any decision by the panel.

"Presently the Minister only has call-in powers where there is a State interest, under this bill the Minister would have powers over any application made to the 'Iconic' panel.

"The *Iconic Queensland Places Bill 2008* is now available from my website at www.glenelmes.com.au and I welcome the community's comment on its contents." Mr Elmes said.

"I will be taking my concerns and those of the Noosa Council and the Noosa Community to the Minister and I expect the Premier to uphold her guarantee. *'I guarantee that...every thing else that the Noosa Council wants will be included in the legislation.'*" (Taken from the Sunshine Coast Daily, 29 December 2007). **ENDS**

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