



14 August 2009

COMMUNITY HAS IT'S SAY ON NORTH SHORE BEACH PERMITS

Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, is delighted with the outcomes achieved during a recent meeting held with Noosa community organizations for the proposed Cooloola recreation areas management (RAM) on the north shore.

"The Government recently released the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the proposed recreation area and I convened a meeting between stakeholders and Council so that they could discuss their views on this important matter. It was a great meeting with all parties agreeing, in principle, with suggested boundaries for the area and vehicle access permits.

"I will be meeting with the Minister, Kate Jones, to give her a copy of the agreed outcomes from this meeting. There were also many other items raised and I understand that these groups will be making their own individual submissions to the Department.

"My great concern is the cost of the vehicle access permits. The Government's proposal for each vehicle is \$191.50 for a year's permit, \$38.25 for one month and \$25 for 3 days (consecutive days).

Noosa locals should not be taxed out of what is a day's outing to the north shore with family to fish or swim. I will be pointing out to the Minister, in no uncertain terms that while I realize that the Government is hell bent on charging for north shore access, there should be, at the very least, a one-day permit (\$8 - \$10) and that the \$25 3-day, consecutive days, permit should become a \$25 3-day, any day, permit across a 12 month period. The Labor Government says that these fees will raise \$2.74 million over a year and that amount will be used on the upkeep and facilities, from the river mouth to Rainbow Beach, but it must not be at the expense of mums and dads and their kids wanting to enjoy the north shore" Glen Elmes said.

Anyone with an interest in this issue can put forward their comments on the RIS and I will provide a link on my website for the RIS document. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to have their say on this very important matter which affects both local residents and visitors alike.

The closing date for providing comment is Monday 7th September and the address to which to send these submissions is:

Project Officer
Cooloola Recreation Area RIS
Dept. of Environment and Resource Management
P O Box 168
Cotton Tree, Qld. 4558

For further information contact: Glen Elmes 5449 8988 or 0400 800 114

CB05 Noosa Civic, 28 Eenie Creek Road PO Box 1849, Noosaville BC Q 4566
Ph (07) 5449 8988 FreeCall 1800 818 396 Fax (07) 5449 9719
EMAIL: noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au