



13 August 2009

AMALGAMATION BACKED? NOT IN NOOSA

Newspaper reports this morning suggest that 65% of the Sunshine Coast backs forced council amalgamation and have indicated their satisfaction with the process.

Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes has dismissed the survey saying that there were only 590 respondents.

"The only way to gauge the success or otherwise of the forced amalgamation of the three Sunshine Coast Shires is to conduct independent research by old local authority boundaries which will give a true and accurate picture.

"I believe that the most recent indication of the favourability of forced council amalgamation was highlighted in the State Election held just four months ago.

"It was without doubt the number one issue in the Noosa electorate with four of the five candidates who stood for election campaigning on the issue. Only the Labor Party rated it as a non-issue which is why Anna Bligh's candidate received just 20% of the vote; an all time record low for Labor in Noosa.

"I also note that the Minister for Local Government, Desley Boyle will be at the Tewantin office of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council tomorrow (Friday 14 August lunchtime).

"This is the Minister who defends the total State Government allocation towards the cost of forced amalgamation statewide at a paltry \$27 million.

"The Local Government Association has suggested the figure should be closer to \$200 million while our regional council has submitted a bill for \$13.7 million as its cost to amalgamate.

"I welcome Desley Boyle to Noosa even though she was not polite enough to notify me that she was coming to visit. However, if she has a spare half-hour I would be happy to take her for a walk through the main street of Tewantin and let the people of the former Noosa Shire let her know exactly what they think of her government's policy on the forced amalgamation of Noosa." ENDS

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