



**Estimates Committee F Response - Noosa & it's environment  
GLEN ELMES**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

**Hansard, 8 August 2007**

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**Mr ELMES** (Noosa--Lib) (8.20 pm): I would like to make some brief comments on Estimates Committee F. I will concentrate particularly on the environment portfolio, particularly as it applies to the Noosa electorate.

At the outset I take this opportunity to commend the minister, Lindy Nelson-Carr, for her willingness to communicate and work with me on environmental projects in my electorate of Noosa, particularly on the Mill Point restoration project. Conservation of the environment in Noosa is very close to the heart of my community and me. Noosa is a special place in Queensland. If one was to go from the New South Wales border, along the Gold Coast, through Brisbane and up to the Sunshine Coast, in my opinion and that of many others one could not find a place more special than the Noosa shire. Why is Noosa so special? The answer lies in the people who have protected Noosa. It has been jealously guarded by local residents, the community and the local council who refuse to allow carte blanche development and ensure that the environment is respected and enhanced. The people of Noosa are integral to keeping Noosa special.

On behalf of the people of Noosa I request that the minister opens an even greater dialogue with the people of Noosa on projects such as the management of the Noosa North Shore, the preservation of the Great Sandy National Park and the Mill Point project that I mentioned earlier. I am certain that she will find the people of Noosa and their servants such as myself very open to and interested in assisting her to keep Noosa special.

However, there is a problem with some in the community consultation process. Some groups are not truly representative of the community they purport to represent. I urge the minister to ensure that community consultation is undertaken in such a way as to be representative of all sections of the Noosa community.

I would also acknowledge the minister's support for Noosa's application to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, for a biosphere reserve project to be recognised under the Man and Biosphere program. The project serves to support the efforts of the Noosa community to be both self-sufficient and live in harmony with the local ecosystem through sustainable development. Secondly, the program acts as an example to the world that sustainable development is both possible and profitable. Clearly, Noosa leads the way in sustainable development and should be a shining example to the world as to how environmental protection, financial responsibility and social understanding can be combined in such a successful manner. I hope that the minister will ensure that her government does not allow Noosa to be destroyed by anyone, including the cabinet. It is of serious concern to my constituents and I--

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! I remind the member for Noosa that you are starting to trespass. I am aware of the way that you have written your speech. You are starting to trespass. I bring you back to your speech.

Mr ELMES: I would not dare trespass, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is of serious concern to my constituents and I that insufficient protection will be afforded to Noosa. I hope that the minister will take our concerns into account within the halls of government.

It would be a terrible shame if Noosa, as a shining example of the world through UNESCO, was not to continue to enjoy the sort of sustainable lifestyle that we have worked so hard for. The people of Noosa are committed to the protection of their home. Their efforts have kept it special. I know that the minister would have even greater support and affection from the people of Noosa if she was to play an even greater role in keeping the Noosa shire the unique place to live in that it is.

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