



GOVERNMENT SHOULD COME CLEAN ON DESALINATION REPORT

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A secret State Government report due to be released in a couple of weeks identifies five sites in south-east Queensland as possible locations for further desalination plants, says the Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes MP.

“I have received specific advice that the locations being considered are Stradbroke Island, mouth of the Brisbane River, Bribie Island, Marcoola and Peregrin Beach.

“The information provided to me comes from an impeccable source and I call on the Deputy Premier, Paul Lucas, to bring forward the release of the report and more importantly, to discount possible locations such as Peregrin and Marcoola.

“A desalination plant like the one currently under construction at Tugun on the Gold Coast would take up an area about the size of a football field and would need to be built as close to the coastline as possible to accommodate the two pipes required to be built under the seabed - one for water intake and the other to discharge the saline solution back into the ocean.

“My other major concern is that unlike the desalination plant in Western Australia which uses wind as its energy source, the locations being considered in Queensland would be powered by traditional energy means and reports have already identified that ENERGEX does not have enough renewable energy to mitigate the effects of the greenhouse gases output from the Tugun desalination facility.

“Where and how does the Government intend sourcing the required ‘clean’ energy to drive such a plant?”

“In responding to a question from Dr Bruce Flegg during Estimates Committee Hearings in July this year, Deputy Premier Anna Bligh is quoted as saying that *...the energy used to provide water from the [Tugun] desalination plant, I think has the distinction of being the highest energy user in terms of the production of water*”.

“This is not a project that residents of the Noosa electorate want to see built in Peregrin or anywhere else on the Sunshine Coast and is a direct result of the failure of the Bligh-Beattie Government’s failure to plan and spend adequately on infrastructure across the south east.

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