



10 March 2008

VOTE ON SATURDAY TO PROTECT NOOSA

The Member for Noosa Glen Elmes today urged all eligible Noosa Shire residents to have their say on the future of Noosa by ensuring that they vote in the Local Government election being held this Saturday and to ignore any advice given to them that not voting will either retain or restore the Noosa Shire Council in its present form.

“Residents have come to me advising of a letterbox drop and other advertising which suggests that if more than 50% of voters do not vote then the Government cannot legally abolish our shire.

“This is wrong and by not voting we are putting in danger the special Noosa values that more than a generation of residents has worked extremely hard to provide.

“Our community has done everything feasible over more than three years to fight the forced amalgamation of the Noosa Shire.

“We have taken part in petitions, we have written submissions, we have protested in the streets of Brisbane outside Parliament House and we have conducted rallies and other advertising throughout south-east Queensland.

“The simple fact is - if you don't vote you are throwing away the only opportunity to protect Noosa's values and to preserve what generations of Noosa residents have worked hard to provide.

“Division 6 of the *Electoral Act 1992* provides for the counting of votes. **Counting of votes continues until one candidate has a majority of the valid votes counted.**

“On Saturday, if only one person votes, there would be a decision.

“My advice is that at neither Local government nor State government elections is there any provision providing that a minimum number of voters must have recorded a valid vote for an election to be valid.

“Therefore, any information suggesting otherwise is not based on fact.

“I am determined to see the Noosa Shire recreated as a stand-alone local authority and the only way that that can now occur is for a Coalition Government to be elected at the next State election. This is our published policy and it will be implemented.

“I urge everyone to exercise their right to vote on Saturday to achieve the best result they can for Noosa.” ENDS

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