



# NOOSA SHIRE RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



# Newsletter

*July 2019 No.07*

## NSRRA Aims & Objectives

- *To ensure that Rates and Levies are kept at the lowest practical level, consistent with an acceptable level of services to the community.*
- *To protect the Noosa lifestyle, which is built on a good balance between the natural and built environment – the reason most of us are here.*
- *To ensure that the views of the Noosa community are represented in a forceful but constructive way.*
- *To maintain a good relationship with Council while being respected for its well informed scrutiny of Council activities.*

We are halfway through 2019 already and it has been a busy year for NSRRA with Noosa Council widely consulting on issues likely to have community impacts. Noosa Council continues to enjoy ongoing community support.

Don't forget, Council Agendas, with reports and Minutes, are listed on the Noosa Council website. Go to 'www.noosa.qld.gov.au' then follow the menus to 'council' and 'meetings'. Council has a online consultation system that is a great source of information with a great facility for feedback. Go to the Website, and under 'quicklinks' and 'your say noosa', find the current consultative projects and a wealth of reports. A real opportunity exists to contribute and get involved.

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## ***What's Happening?***

This past year, we have participated in a number of projects which support and protect our objectives.

***The Noosa Plan*** was put out for public consultation and this drew a large number of submissions. NSRRA made a detailed submission which included zonings, land use, minimum lot size changes and several hinterland issues. The short term accommodation industry, such as AirBnB, remains a hot topic - both for and against. Submissions are being assessed by Council and State Government. The push from State Government for Noosa to take significant increases in population via the SEQ Plan, and as SEQ grows, is also a source of concern. Overall assessment – a strong but complicated planning document. More later in the year.

***The Noosa River Plan*** is currently in the final stages of having the river catchment and fishing issues incorporated into the plan and will be out for consultation soon. Again – more later.

***Sustainable Tourism Reference Group (STRG)*** – is an ongoing series of regular meetings involving Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa, and various community stakeholders including environmental and resident associations (including us). Defining 'sustainable' tourism, recognizing tourism's importance to the business community and recognizing that over-tourism can adversely impact residents and the environment is a work in progress that acknowledges growing resident concerns. Ongoing planning is underway by Council and others to seek solutions for anticipated future transport, traffic and congestion problems. To not be planning, at this early stage, would be unacceptable. The recent furore on social and tabloid media, following Mayor Tony's announcement that planning for an increase in the impacts of tourism is necessary now, confirms that this is an important issue.

***The Climate Change Action Strategy*** involved Risk Assessment on parts of Noosa likely to be affected by sea rise and storm surge over coming decades. Part of a State Government process for Coastal Councils, workshops involving Council, consultants, and community groups identified a number of problem areas. Council is already using the findings when considering planning issues near affected areas.

***Noosa Events Policy*** – We have made a submission in the development of a Shire-wide Events Policy. This has already seen changes to Noosa Beach and Noosaville Foreshore use for events and is a work in progress. Our concerns recognise that some of these events have negative impacts on some residents and businesses.

***Regular Meetings with Noosa Council*** – We meet monthly with Mayor Tony Wellington and Exec staff to discuss areas of interest and we look forward to continuation of this beneficial process into the future.

***Flight Path over Noosa Shire***. There appear to be some apparent strange goings-on during the EIS and consultation process. We've lodged a complaint and it's being investigated. There is a lot more to this story. Check with Flight Forum site on Facebook and Noosa MP Sandy Bolton's website.

***Become aware and involved!*** In approx. nine months, Noosa will go to the polls to elect the next Council. This will be an important election and subject to some Local Govt Dept rule changes. Learn the changes. Become involved and study the candidates claims and policies. Your vote will be very important. We live in Paradise with a lot to protect.

We have a good relationship with Council and are fortunate to have such an open and community focused council.

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The recent poll outcome and the fiscally responsible budget reflect community expectations. We are a small shire largely by choice.

Our areas of interest for 2019 and 2020 include all of the above, and:

1. Traffic, parking and congestion issues across Noosa adversely affecting local residents.
2. The large noisy and frequently poorly utilised Sunbus buses still attract complaints. There has been no replacement of the failed Electric Bus trial yet electric buses abound worldwide.

**Membership of NSRRA** – Have you paid your Membership fees for 2019? They are due now. If you are renewing, simply go online and direct deposit \$10 with your “surname” and “subs” as follows:

**Direct Debit details**

Noosa Res & Ratepayers Assoc Inc

BSB - **124 001**

A/c No. - **10505388**

Reference '*please add your name & Subs*'

If you are not a member yet, email us at [noosaratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:noosaratepayers@gmail.com) and we'll send you our Membership Form. We would love you to join us.

If you have any issues please contact us and we will try to help.

'Noosa Residents & Ratepayers' Facebook page is now operating properly. so is our website '[www.noosaratepayers.org.au](http://www.noosaratepayers.org.au)'

***Adrian Williams***

***President***

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