

Newsletter

APRIL 2023 No.16

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.*

This Year 2023!

April 2023 already and Autumn. We still have Covid 19, (*Vaccinate/sanitise/distance/isolate*) and other viruses, as well as serious economic issues affecting Council, business, housing, home mortgages, and health and well being. This is on top of our tourism, transport pressures on residents, and finding employees and affordable rental accommodation all which remain a major issue. Shortages of staff have adversely affected Council as well resulting in delays in a range of services. This is not only a local problem but one that is widespread nationally. Same as last year!

NSRRA public meetings remain suspended because of COVID 19 affecting venues and risk to participants. NSRRA Management Committee meets regularly to make submissions and address a range of ongoing issues. Some of us have been directly impacted by Covid with ongoing health concerns. Lingering medical symptoms are being reported more and more. We urge everyone to take health precautions and stay safe!

What's Happening?

Council Meetings

Don't forget, Council Agendas with reports and Minutes are listed on the Noosa Council website. 'noosa.qld.gov.au' These are a valuable source of information as to how the Noosa Shire and Council are managed on our behalf. You can also watch Noosa Council meetings on the internet live streaming on 'Youtube' - although audio remains poor.

Go to www.noosa.qld.gov.au then follow the menus to 'council' and 'meetings'.

Council has an online consultation system that is a great source of information with a great facility for feedback. Go to noosa.qld.gov.au 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. Help the community and Council by reporting things like road needs, parks and gardens, and any other problems requiring attention.

Queensland Valuer-General's latest valuations for Noosa have seen many land values double in 12 months.

Valuations are based on market values for your property and are issued routinely and annually. Council rates are based on a percentage of the state issued valuation rate notice. Some valuations went up 100%+ but Council rates will be adjusted. Watch the Council Annual budget process. See a good explanation on www.noosamatters.com.au.

Noosa Council Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028

Council is currently reviewing and analysing feedback for the *Corporate Plan 2023-2028*, which, when adopted, provides the framework for council's decisions about policy, programs and resources.

A series of community feedback sessions played a vital part in developing Noosa's new strategic plan for the future of the shire. More soon.

Noosa Plan 2020 remains our best protection against changes to policy resulting in weakened regulation which would adversely affect residents' amenity. Strong enforcement is required. The push is on for Noosa to take significant increases in population as SEQ grows and is also a source of pressure on our lifestyle, already under threat from vested interests.

On 18 February 2020 QLD Govt advised Council that Noosa Plan 2020 (NP2020) was approved subject to a condition to monitor the provisions relating to short term accommodation, tourism and housing supply for a 2 years from 31 July 2020.

A Noosa Council report – 'STRA Monitoring report' – has been prepared by Council in response to State Govt requirements re implementation of Noosa Plan.

The Noosa River Plan is currently being developed by Marine Safety Queensland, and other relevant State Govt departments. They are investigating various issues such as derelicts, live-aboards, mooring/anchoring, and various other issues. Progress is being made! MSQ recently released a proposal for public consultation – now closed. The proposal is comprehensive, included detailed maps and a survey.. The Noosa River Stakeholders Group has now been disbanded, Qld Govt has a plan and further community consultation will occur shortly

Noosa Shire Housing Strategy

Noosa Council has adopted a 'Noosa Housing Strategy 2022' policy at a recent meeting, following a 'Housing Needs Survey' and consultation. This 18page document details a range of initiatives designed to help secure affordable housing for workers and others as a result of planning failure, an explosion of Short Term Rental Accommodation, Covid 19 and other State and National problems. Some of these problems have been years in the

making. We have reviewed the contents (we have serious concerns about the potential impacts on our small Shire) and lodged a detailed submission to Government. See our analysis on www.noosamatters.com.au from VP Aaron White

Local Law - short stay letting and home hosted accommodation.

Noosa Council adopted a new local law for short stay rental accommodation on 1 February 2022. The new local law will regulate the ongoing operation of short stay letting and home hosted accommodation and manage the impacts on permanent residents and guest safety

There is an indisputable need for STA regulatory framework to address the impact on residents from the disruption of quiet suburban settings and associated anti-social guest behaviour. There is a growing STA presence on the river. Despite a pushback campaign from 'business' interests, the law has been put in place. It's not perfect but will help. It is making a difference. Registration / compliance / enforcement is ongoing – slowly.

Remember, Noosa Council 24hr Complaints Hotline is 53296466 to report issues. These businesses are required to display their registration number.

Kin Kin Quarry Issue – The people of the hinterland are STILL awaiting a Court decision. This ongoing situation has resulted in serious safety and wellness concerns in the community. Ongoing without resolution.

Bikeway/Pathway from the Junction to Noosa Heads.

NSRRA has concerns regarding the proposed Bikeway/Pathway from Noosa Junction to Noosa Heads- still a number of years away - that an already overloaded traffic network may produce an increase in "rat running" through Noosa Hill streets. There are also Noosa Hill residents concerns surrounding Viewland Drive R/H closure. Local Residents advise there are a couple of strategies that may curtail or significantly reduce the amount of non local traffic running through Noosa Hill streets, especially if the Bikeway/Pathway proceeds in its current format. Consultation with Noosa Council is ongoing. More soon.

The Future!

Noosa Matters

To keep up to date with information that matters to those who are concerned about some of the things happening in local politics, we urge you to go to noosamatters.com.au. A wealth of knowledge and hard hitting commentary analyses information otherwise not easily found. For Facebook fans, search for ***NoosaMatters*** .

ELECTION 24

Next Council Election is in March 2024. Under 1 year to go! Already, indications are that this will be the most important election in a decade, with our community values under threat from both inside and outside our boundaries. As a small Shire we need community involvement to protect the way of life we enjoy from over development, over tourism and party politics.

Your support and community involvement is very important. Consider what is happening around us and ***be aware*** and involved. We live in Paradise with a lot to protect.

Our areas of interest for 2023/4 include:

- 1 Protection of our Biosphere, our lifestyle amenity and the intent of the Noosa Plan with a start to implementing the Noosa River Plan.
- 2 Having committed and skilled Councillors with a financially transparent and responsible NSC Council protecting residents interests.
- 3 Management of traffic, parking and congestion issues adversely affecting local residents across Noosa.
- 4 Control of STA growth and it's impact on Residents and housing supply.
- 5 A housing strategy that focuses on State Govt leadership for affordable, and social housing and not on swamping Noosa Shire with high density living.
- 6 For Translink - The large, noisy and frequently poorly utilised diesel buses still attract complaints. We have one or two Electric buses on the network - even though electric buses abound worldwide.

Membership of NSRRA –

If you are not yet a member, and wish to join, or are renewing your membership, email us at noosaratepayers@gmail.com and we'll send you our Membership Form. Membership process and form have recently been changed. Membership fees for 2023 are \$10 per person. If you have any issues or local problems, contact us and we will try to help.

***'Noosa Residents & Ratepayers' on Facebook and website is: www.noosaratepayers.org.au
email: noosaratepayers@gmail.com***

Best Wishes for a better 2023! and standby for 2024! Stay Safe!

***Adrian Williams
President***

