

# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023 No.17

## ***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.*

**SEPTEMBER 2023** already and it's Spring. We still have Covid 19, as well as serious economic issues affecting Residents, Council, business, housing, home mortgages, health and well being. This is on top of our unsustainable 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.

NSRRA Management Committee meets regularly to make submissions and address a range of ongoing issues. Some 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?***

#### ***ELECTION 24***

Next Council Election is in March 2024. Just over 6 months! Its becoming clearer and more certain that this will be the most important election in a decade, with our community values under threat from both inside and outside our boundaries. The campaigning has started and we urge everyone to examine each candidate robustly. Ask questions and seek straight answers. Become involved. As a small Shire we need community involvement to protect the way of life we enjoy from over development, over tourism and party politics. Protection of Residents amenity and the Environment come first. We should expect Councillors to fulfil that role but there are signs that other agendas may take some on a different path.

2024 is also a State Election later in the year. Our local Member of Parliament is *Independent Sandy Bolton*. Noosa Shire Council Mayor C Stewart has recently announced she is leaving local government after one Council term to represent the Liberal National Party and to unseat Independent MP Sandy Bolton. This also an important time for Noosa. The State is increasingly exerting controls over more and more facets of local life. Study the proposed SEQ Regional Plan. What is the role of the 'Council of Mayors'?

### **Destination Management Plan**

As Noosa moves towards a situation where over-tourism increasingly adversely affects our way of life and threatens the very heart of Noosa, the announcement of development of a Destination Management Plan was both timely and welcomed.

Over a year of work by Noosa Council and an Internal Control Group, delays and unknown problems has led finally to a Discussion Paper which can be read on *Noosa Council "Have Your Say"* section of their website. Very complicated but necessary reading then complete the survey and make a submission.

Years of trying to seek solutions to the problems impacting Noosa have produced reports but almost no action except to support increased tourism. We hope that this current process does not simply create a marketing plan.

### ***Draft SEQ Regional Plan – Potentially very high impact on our community – Beware.***

NSRRA is currently examining a draft Sth East Qld Regional Plan that has a huge negative impact on our way of life. More on this soon. Be Aware. The push is on from State Govt to significantly increase population as South East Qld grows via the 'big-is-better' model.

Read [www.noosa.qld.gov.au/planning-development/the-noosa-plan/state-planning](http://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/planning-development/the-noosa-plan/state-planning)

Migration from the south is creating an additional source of pressure on our lifestyle, already under threat from vested interests and is one of the most serious attacks on our Residents amenity since Amalgamation.

Act **now**. Respond to survey and send objections.

Forty years from now (2065 approx.) 19000+ increase in population via 4000+ extra dwellings and 4-8 storey buildings in some areas. This will be imposed on top of an already crowded area with over-tourism and unsustainable development.

The *Noosa Plan 2020* – endorsed by Residents and some Councillors - is under threat from State, developers and others wanting to facilitate this change but it remains our best protection. Changes to planning policy resulting in weakened regulation would adversely affect residents' amenity. Strong enforcement is required

***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 speed levels, derelicts, live-aboards, mooring/anchoring, and various other issues. Progress is being made! Our MP Sandy Bolton reports Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) have advised the entrance at Lake Doonella to Noosa Sound and the Dog Beach area near the Noosa River entrance will be permanently limited to 6 knots, 60 metres from the southern shoreline. Education begins now. Further changes to follow.

### ***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](http://www.noosamatters.com.au) from VP Aaron White.

**'GEM LIFE' Housing Proposal for COOROY.** Noosa Council has rejected a Cooroy Relocatable Home Park by Gem Life. NSRRA lodged a submission against the Gemlife proposal due to its numerous conflicts with the Noosa Plan.

Deputy Mayor Frank Wilkie's comments regarding the reasons for the refusal follow:

'This application involves housing our community's most vulnerable, including single women and women fleeing domestic violence, in an isolated location, outside Noosa's urban boundary, away from support services and public transport, on land prone to fire and flood, behind an industrial estate, on land not currently connected to proper water services and without a properly formed road, lighting or footpaths. This is exactly what we said we would not do and the opposite to the aims and objectives of the Housing Strategy.

This proposal is a fantastic idea, but in the wrong location.

### ***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. 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.](tel:53296466) 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.

Kin Kin Quarry is currently having their planned veg clearing assessed by the Feds under the EPBC Act, More on this soon.

### ***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. . 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](http://noosamatters.com.au). A wealth of knowledge and hard hitting commentary analyses information otherwise not easily found. For Facebook fans, search for ***NoosaMatters*** .

***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.

So far, satisfactory progress has not been evident.

#### ***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](mailto: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](http://www.noosaratepayers.org.au)  
email: [noosaratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:noosaratepayers@gmail.com)***

***Best Wishes for the rest of 2023! and standby for 2024! Stay Safe!***

***Adrian Williams***  
***President***