

NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION Inc.

Noosa Parks Association
Environment Centre
Wallace Park
5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville
www.noosaparks.org.au



All mail to:
Secretary
P.O. Box 836
Noosa Heads Qld 4567
office@noosaparks.org.au

5 July 2015

Ms Erin Pasley, Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
By email to ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Pasley,

Re: LNP Private Member's Planning and Development Bills

The Noosa Parks Association (NPA) is Noosa's premier environmental organisation, which provides a voice for the people of Noosa Shire about protecting Noosa's environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

In relation to planning and development, in order to ensure appropriate and sustainable development, the NPA is strongly committed to:

- the autonomy of local planning and development,
- residents having a say in local planning and development matters, and
- legislative and regulatory processes that 1) safeguard local council authority and 2) facilitate public input without penalty.

The NPA is greatly concerned that the three LNP Planning and Development Bills introduced in June 2015 propose a diminution of local autonomy and public participation, which flies in the face of democratic process and could open the door to inappropriate development.


On behalf of the people of Noosa Shire, the NPA strongly objects to any such components of the 2015 Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) and (Planning Court) Bills. In particular we urge there should be:

- No transfer or increase of powers to the Minister over local planning and development matters
- No extension of the Planning and Environment Court's power to award costs not only to parties directly involved in court proceedings, but also against any entity that has an interest in a proceeding, but is not party to it
- No reduction of onus of proof on the applicant to prove the merits of their proposal and justify any inconsistencies with the local planning scheme.
- No appointments by the Minister in place of councils of assessment managers

- No redefinition of "material change of use" to only increases in scale and intensity and not to reductions in the scale of the development (often reductions in scale can have significant impacts)
- No reduction of public notification periods for applications and removal of existing requirements for notification to appear in local newspapers. This would lead to submitters making their assessments and submissions without having full information on the development.
- No extension of time frames for applicants to be able to revive a lapsed application.

The NPA supports reform to improve the efficiencies of the planning and development system, but this must not come at the expense of community participation and the role of local government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ingrid Jackson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Ingrid Jackson
Honorary Secretary
Noosa Parks Association