



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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NOOSA RIVER

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (1.17 a.m.): Noosa River enjoys an A-minus rating. This in part is due to the pristine environment of the upper reaches of the Mary River. The community of the Noosa electorate is committed to protecting this beautiful river for future generations. To this end, NICA has been formed, the Noosa Integrated Catchment Association. Comprising 22 community groups, the EPA, Noosa council, the tourist industry, the commercial and recreational fishers and environmental groups, NICA has set out a plan that intends to protect and restore riparian vegetation, management of land use and fisheries to sustain them for the future, to stop polluting gutters and drains and reduce boat wash damage. NICA is committed to protecting this glorious natural asset. It hopes to achieve this end by education versus capital works. This community believes these are achievable goals. I am very proud to be in a position to support this great community initiative. Keep it clean and keep it green.

I was honoured to be invited to the launch of the plan. Noosa is what it is today because of the community which protects it from the get-rich-quick merchants. Some of the groups who attended the evening were Noosa Parks Association, Dr Michael Gloster, Mrs Stephanie Haslam, who hosted the evening, Ben McMullen from Noosa council, Mayor Bob Abbott, Darryl Fry from SCEC, Paul Summers from Landcare, Barry Craig from Rural Futures, Barbara Carseldine and councillors Vivien Griffin and June Colley to mention a few.

Trevor Cleary, representing the commercial fishermen, put up a great display of a bycatch net to show how our commercial fishermen are helping to sustain fish stocks. Thank you, Trevor, for your contribution. Also, Peter Baulch of North Arm, who has an aquarium business, went to the trouble of setting up a display for viewing of Noosa River fish. Thank you, Peter. The Noosa Library was a wonderful venue, as it is always, and we could not put on these great evenings without the library's continued support and involvement in the community. Therefore, thanks to Maureen O'Shea. Maureen, you are a gem.

Noosa is not short on hospitality and recently staged the Noosa triathlon. It was a fun-packed event which all the family could enjoy. With Max Pettigrove on water safety, a group of swimmers from Sunshine Beach Surf Club—Jan Lilleywhite, Phil and Jenny Stephens, Terry Colve, Cynthia and others, along with Ivan and me—all entered the Eyeline 1,000. We did it. What a feeling! The children of the electorate were also able to do their kids triathlon in Noosa Woods on the Saturday morning. My Bonnie and young friend Max had a great day, along with a couple of hundred other children. They were all winners. The adults triathlon was spectacular.

I would like to congratulate United Sports Marketing's Garth Proud and Nick and Donna Croft for their role in staging this world-class event. It is truly a special event when the host community can participate and compete. Congratulations, too, to Noosa-Tewantin Lions, Rotary, Sunshine Beach Surf Club, our local police and ambos and other emergency service people for being there and for their wonderful volunteer services. The event went off smoothly, with only minor disturbances reported. This in itself is a compliment to our community and visitors, especially when spirits are high. I would like to thank my parliamentary colleague Peta-Kaye Croft and her husband for supporting the event by joining us. On the topic of volunteers, congratulations to all surf-lifesavers who have gained proficiency again this season to make our state's beaches safe places to swim.