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From: Bruce Davidson

Sent: Tuesday, 21 August 2007 4:00 PM

To: Committee, FPA (SEN)

Subject: Local Government Plebiscites Inquiry

To the Department of the Senate,

The Noosa Council welcomes with delight the proposal by the Federal Government to legislate to enable the people of Noosa to vote at a plebiscite in regard to the proposed merger of Noosa into the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

The provisions of the Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007 that threaten the dismissal of a Council that advocates for a plebiscite, and threatens to fine individual Councillors, is so foreign to the democratic values and principles of a western country like Australia that those provisions require interruption and overturning.

As part of the public submission process of the Queensland Local Government Reform Commission, the communities of Noosa, so concerned at the prospect of Noosa losing its Local Government unit, lodged approximately 31,000 submissions. This represents approximately 85% of the total number of submissions received by the Commission from across all of Queensland.

Despite the enormous logic and weight of our community's submissions, the Local Government Reform Commission, and then the State Government, paid them scant regard. In fact, the State Government dismissed them as Noosa Council inspired and based on Councillors trying to save their own jobs.

The proposed legislation is applauded for it will allow the individuals of our community to express their opinion in a free and unbiased way. Whilst the referendum findings are not enforceable it nevertheless enables freedom of speech and democracy to prevail.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Davidson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER