

HASTINGS STREET ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1515
NOOSA HEADS Q 4567

21st August 2007

Dear Members of the Senate Committee,

RE: FORCED AMALGAMATION OF NOOSA SHIRE.

On behalf of the Hastings Street Association, I welcome your coming visit to Noosa to hear the reasons our community wishes to maintain our unique and viable community identity.

Our Association represents a group of small business people that operate businesses in the Hastings Street precinct. The representation on community reference groups we have enjoyed in recent years has forged strong economic foundations and a close working relationship with our local council.

Our community members are represented on the Economic, Social, Environment and Tourism sector boards. This type of community input is recognised as a model for local government. This model would not work with an amalgamated council.

We have benefited by creating a unique tourism industry that is identified and enjoyed by holiday makers from across the world as well as interstate and South East Queensland. It has taken almost 25 years of local community input to develop this tourism market. Tourism Noosa has appointed consultants who have monitored and identified the total income our tourism industry currently brings in is \$700 million pa. This is now at risk.

The recent legislation concerning council amalgamations that has been rushed through our state parliament has heralded an unpleasant cloud over democracy in this state under the current government of Peter Beattie.

Almost 10,000 community members out of a population of just over 50,000 recently took part in a street march to the steps of Parliament House in Brisbane. This took place on a Friday morning and had it been scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday then we would have had 3 times that many people. Many of these people had never been involved in a street march ever before. Almost 50,000 people say NO to amalgamation in Noosa.

This community really appreciates your interest in our plight for a democratic voice in local government and we look forward to further discussions with you.

Yours Faithfully



Peter Butt
Vice President.