

OUR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST !

SUBMISSION TO MAROOCHY AND NOOSA SHIRE COUNCILS

A PROPOSAL FOR A BOUNDARY CHANGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FROM

EUMUNDI, DOONAN AND VERRIERDALE ACTION GROUP INCORPORATED (EDV ACTION GROUP)

JANUARY 2006



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of Submission

This is a submission to both Noosa and Maroochy Councils by the Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale (EDV) Action Group setting out the arguments for a boundary change, presenting evidence of the level of resident support for such a change and requesting that both Councils investigate the issue of a boundary change as part of the Size, Shape and Sustainability Review Project currently being supported by the Local Government of Queensland (LGAQ). To enable this to occur, the submission places the following recommendations to both Councils:

Recommendation One: The EDV Action Group recommends that both Maroochy Council and Noosa Council consider this request for a boundary change as part of their overall review of their future sustainability.

Recommendation Two: The EDV Action Group recommends that both Councils include this submission for a boundary change in the specific terms of reference for the Review of Size, Shape and Sustainability of the Sunshine Coast Councils.

The submission to the two Mayors also includes copies of the individual Letters of Support from residents.

Arguments for a Boundary Change

The arguments for a boundary change outlined in this submission are as follows:

- 1. There is extensive cross border use of services in Noosa Shire by the residents of Doonan, Eumundi, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs
- 2. There is a definite Community of Interest between Noosa and the suburbs of Doonan, Eumundi, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs as evidenced by the extensive commuting between one area and another, and the ease of access to information from local Noosa newspapers. In addition, there is a range of boundary anomalies that create senseless divisions where none should exist. The suburb of Doonan is bisected, with one half in one shire and the other half in another shire. Weyba Downs is in an isolated pocket surrounded by Noosa Shire and some streets in three of the suburbs are bisected by the shire boundaries
- 3. The culture, character and identity of the four suburbs has more in common with Noosa Shire than Maroochy Shire by virtue of greater alignment with Noosa's approach to planning, by historical linkages, by the extent of branding which makes the suburbs appear to be part of Noosa, and by geographic proximity



4. There would be more effective water catchment management for the environmentally sensitive area of Lake Weyba if all surrounding development is controlled by one shire

Evidence of Community Support for a Boundary Change

Evidence of resident and business support is provided based on extensive and exhaustive surveying of the local population and business community. This submission provides detail of the methodology used including the auditing of the data and analysis by an independent statistical expert to stress the validity and reliability of the results.

The results show an overwhelming support for a boundary change (80.5% of households and 87% of businesses). Such a response cannot be ignored.

Copies of the Letters of Support from individual residents and business owners are provided as supporting documentation to this submission.

Addressing Issues of Concern

This submission also acknowledges the concerns of Maroochy Council regarding potential loss of revenue and issues of asset transfer. It is suggested that the most appropriate way for these to be addressed is through a review process involving both Councils.

Conclusion

The EDV Action Group requests that both Councils, in line with their strong commitment to community engagement, consider this submission carefully and engage in a review process to examine all aspects of a boundary change.