

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.
Our Noosa.
Our Future.



July 2025 Newsletter Ed. #82

Welcome to our new look newsletter everyone, with thanks to staffer Jack and feedback appreciated! Now to the month where amongst the many wonderful moments, the Citizenship Ceremony was especially heartwarming with fifty-four of our newest Noosa family members from twenty countries celebrated. Hearing them recite their pledges filled our hearts with pride and joy—and one as I said we should all take every year as a reminder of how blessed we are to live where we do, and to be an 'Aussie'! It was also wonderful to connect with them all over some yummy lamingtons and ANZAC biscuits, and to welcome them home. We really do share a dream, and sing with one voice.



Noosa Citizenship Ceremony



Koala Connect



SBSHS Tiny Home Team



Cooroy Rotary Changeover



Spring Hub & OzHarvest Lunch

Hot Topics

Kin Kin Quarry EPBC Update – The Federal Environment Minister has declared the application to clear upwards of fifteen hectares of koala habitat in our hinterland a "controlled action" due to significant impact on threatened species and ecological communities. This is good news and will require the applicant to submit a new application, which includes public consultation, before a decision under the EPBC Act can be made. We will provide updates, including consultation opening dates, as soon as we have more information.

State Facilitated Developments (SFD) – The Deputy Premier has recently advised that the SFD program has been paused for the foreseeable future, with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning continuing to assess the remaining applications, including the one at Noosa Junction. See our latest Noosa 360 update via www.bit.ly/40sAzwg.

Shark Nets – In response to our Question on Notice (QON), the Minister for Primary Industries has stated the government maintains its position that shark nets and drumlines will continue under the Shark Control Program until alternatives are proven effective at reducing shark attack risks. We are now awaiting further responses from Noosa stakeholders on the trialling of net removal during the winter whale migration to reduce entanglements, with Noosa Council recently voting to write to the State Government for this trial in Noosa. For more information, see our latest Noosa 360 update via www.bit.ly/41lhEpP.



Gambling Education Australia



Tewantin State School MP Grant



Noosa Red Cross AGM



Presenting Connie's QLD Day Award



Meeting with Lifelight

Noosa River Management – Stage six is scheduled to commence on 1 October 2025 which applies a limit of twenty-eight days per year for anchoring vessels over five meters in length on the lower half of the Noosa River system. As requested based on community feedback, Maritime Safety QLD (MSQ) has agreed to review the scope of this stage to ensure there are no unintended consequences, including for Lake Cooroibah and Lake Cootharaba, in its implementation. Please read further at www.bit.ly/4I1HK5Z

Shaping SEQ Regional Plan – Following our advocacy, the Deputy Premier has provided further assurances that they plan to work closely with Noosa Shire Council and others in the review of ShapingSEQ 2023 to reset the planning partnership. They also acknowledged key considerations that we have continued to raise on behalf of constituents regarding unsustainable population targets and other issues. For more information, visit our latest Noosa 360 update, via www.bit.ly/3IFxFy4.

Inappropriate Social Media Use in Schools – Following recent reports, we asked a Question on Notice requesting the Minister for Education advise what is being implemented to protect students and prevent further occurrences. They have since responded outlining the antibullying and cybersafety initiatives being pursued. We would appreciate any feedback from Noosa Electorate residents to inform our advocacy. Read the minister's full response at our Noosa 360 update via www.bit.ly/4f6UVRG.

E-Bikes & E-Scooters – While the Parliamentary Inquiry into e-mobility safety is underway, we have continued to advocate for increased action before more injuries and deaths occur. In response, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has committed to actively seek the support of other state ministers and the federal government, as well tasked the department with a range of initial actions to tackle this issue whilst the inquiry is underway. To read the minister's full response, visit <http://bit.ly/44QfeiP>.

Status Report

Burgess Creek – The current government committed \$100,000 for a catchment management plan during the 2024 State Election, and we emphasized the need to honour this and additional funding for any identified necessary works. In response to our QON, the Minister for Environment stated government is collaborating with Noosa Council on issues like erosion, with further funding options considered after a plan is developed. For more details, see our latest update www.sandybolton.com/burgess-creek-update-july-2025.

Queensland Procurement Policy – Our submission that this policy needs increased public consultation with a greater onus on potential impacts to communities is being considered by the department. Please send your thoughts to betterprocurement@epq.qld.gov.au as soon as possible. Please copy our office in via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.



Noosa Lions Changeover



Noosa District Flexispace

Tinbeerwah Fire Station – Following our advocacy, a condition assessment was undertaken by the government, which identified several items for repair and maintenance, yet did not address the upgrades reported as needed. On a site visit with the Tinbeerwah Rural Fire Brigade team we saw firsthand the issues, including structural integrity, exposure risks, and more. We will provide an update once we have a response to our latest efforts to ensure the station’s safety and volunteer needs are met.

All Abilities Toilet Facilities – We followed up on the government commitment of \$1 million to fund an all-abilities toilet facility on Gympie Terrace, the minister notifying us that the funding has been made available to Noosa Council, who has responsibility to deliver.

Home Schooling Changes – The Home Education Expert Group, established in 2024 to advise government on changes to improve outcomes for home schooled children has completed its review and outlined several recommendations, which the Queensland Government has accepted. For more information visit our Noosa 360 update via <http://bit.ly/4mbzO2V>.

Queensland Redistribution Commission (QRC) – The QRC reviews enrolment numbers in Queensland’s ninety-three electorates every seven and a half years and adjusts boundaries to ensure that each remains within 10% of the average enrolment quota. Noosa is currently close to 3.4% under the quota and is projected to be 8.9% under quota by 2032. While our boundaries do not necessarily have to change, redistribution up and down the coast may still have an impact. At this stage the QRC is inviting submissions on changes to electoral boundaries until August 6 via www.bit.ly/QRC2025feedback.



Will from Archdiocese of Brisbane



Zonta Noosa’s Care Packs



Tinbeerwah Rural Fire Station



Vinnies Sports Pack



Noosa River Moby - Laneway



Noosa River Moby - The Om



Noosa River Moby - River Reads

On the Homefront

North Shore Pod Launch – In a Queensland first, the team from Containers for Change – Express Recycling Noosa has installed a pod for bottles and cans at the Waste Transfer Station between the first and third cutting at Noosa North Shore, with 100% of the proceeds going to Cooloola Coastcare to protect our beaches and turtles. Pod bags for bottles and cans are available at the Great Sandy Visitor Information Centre on Moorindil street when picking up permits. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/3GJNQKe>.

Noosa MP Community Grants – Another month seeing our grants at work! Noosa Vinnies are providing access to sport and recreational opportunities for our youngsters with their sports packs, and Tewantin State School is making a documentary on their history in readiness for the 150th birthday! Sunshine Beach State High School’s team of in-training tradies are building a tiny home to assist our organisations accommodate those in need, and Rise and Thrive Co. have produced their No Filters Needed workbooks giving students the tools to build confidence and resilience. Zonta’s care packs, filled with essential toiletries, are already making a difference for those in need, including those fleeing domestic violence. Thank you to everyone for the incredible work being done in our community.



Noosa North Shore Pod Launch



No Filters Needed



Bendigo Bank State of the Economy



QLD Day Awardees Louise & Dan

More QLD Day Awardees – For those who were unable to attend the ceremony for their well-deserved awards, it was fabulous to celebrate with them individually! This included Val and Michelle from Noosa Little Athletics, Louise and Dan from the Sunshine Coast Screen Collective, Geoff from Noosa and District Landcare, and John from Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled. Also during the QCWA ‘DIY Divas’ craft morning to present ninety-nine-year-old Connie with her award. Combined these incredible volunteers have given over one hundred years of service to our community and are so inspiring!

Events Around and About – So much to share, not enough space! In amongst the many fantastic events, we celebrated the year’s work of the Noosa Red Cross and Cooroy Rotary, as well Tewanin Noosa Lions at their AGMs and Changeover Dinners. Care for our wildlife was highlighted at the Noosa Koala Connect Launch and at Claire Smith’s Speaking Tour on the threats posed to our furry mascots. The Bendigo Bank State of the Economy presentation provided good insights into the next three years, and a healthy lunch was made and devoured at the Spring Hub as part of a six -week course by OzHarvest. Then creative talents were highlighted at Noosa Alive where we enjoyed a bit of ‘rubbing shoulders’ with some fabulous celebs at the brilliant play Sleeping Dogs!

Meetings, Catch-ups & Mobile Offices – This month was jam packed, with everyone from the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health and Rise and Thrive through to the Noosa Dolphins, Lifelight, and some very productive ‘round tables’ which are always invaluable. These included with Noosa Council and TMR regarding Beckmans Road, local frontliners on the Noosa North Shore Airfield, and Noosa advocates and stakeholder regarding shark nets. We look forward to updating the community on all of these coming up! We had a fantastic mobile office at Gympie Terrace this month, where we touched base with our local businesses and some residents on state-issues. It was so great to see so many familiar faces, as well decades-old friends.

And Finally...

It was a month like no other as amongst having our heads buried in estimates preparations, Noosa went nationally ‘viral’ with a reported croc sighting (none found!) and some interesting ‘ruckusing’ over the reasons why we feel so overwhelmed or ‘over loved’? During a particular online ‘volley’ debate on tourist and resident numbers, the infamous population ‘cap’ was again raised. As we have shared before, regardless of what the interpretation is of the sixty-three thousand within the Noosa Plan, it is about our ‘capacity’ and what we can manage whilst retaining what makes us unique that is important. We must focus on this and be clear on not only the volume we can manage, but how. With our submission to state governments Destination 2045 already sent, we now await Noosa Councils DMP, as specifics are vital. Without, we are advocating with broad brushstrokes, and that is not going to deliver the ‘masterpiece’ sought. Have a wonderful month everyone and as always, love where we live, and who we live amongst!



With John Williamson at ‘Sleeping Dogs’