

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member for Noosa

Our Voice.
Our Noosa.
Our Future.



January 2026 Newsletter #87

Welcome to 2026, and the highlights that extend from the wonderful to not so! Noosa being voted as one of the most welcoming destinations globally, as well the joy of residents celebrating being an Aussie with flags, snags, music and family are powerful reminders of the importance of being able to acknowledge 'us'. That shared pride and sense of belonging is part of the 'glue' of our social fabric, which was also in abundance at The J, where we joined 57 Noosans becoming 'Aussies'. As I have shared before, I get misty-eyed listening to and watching them take their pledge, and I wish I could bottle the gratitude, love and joy they have for our community, as well experienced at the festival hosted by the Tewantin Noosa Lions Club, which was so very Noosa! On the 'not so' I think the updates below are self-explanatory, including sadly what appears politically motivated vitriol on social media and behind the scenes 'shenanigans', however time will tell, and I feel that is not far away!



Tewantin Noosa Lions celebrating 'us'!



Vandalised former TAFE site



Inspecting the TAFE interiors following reassessment



W/ our medics riverside

Hot Issues

Noosa River Management Plan - The final stage as of 1 January introduced a 28-day anchoring limit across the entire river system. These changes as reported many times are the culmination of community advocacy dating back to 2015 (though some say beyond that!) including a Community Jury, recommendations from the Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee (NRSAC), and consultation by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). Even though they were not legislatively required to, as existing regulations could have been changed under their current powers, opportunities for feedback were provided throughout the development of the plan, and criticism has overlooked key facts. These include that liveaboard regulations have not changed, only to anchoring regulations affecting all vessels over five metres in length. There has always been a requirement for anyone living aboard a vessel to hold a permit and comply with anchoring and pollution controls, and those on a mooring, jetty or marina and who hold a valid liveaboard permit are not affected by these amendments. As of last week, there were approximately 120 non-compliant vessels, of which 20 are permanent liveaboards with 20% of these having contacted MSQ demonstrating hardship. We continue to investigate any claims brought to our office, requested a 'Statement of Reasons' and review of the implementation of the regulations, a holding/laydown area for vessels whose owners are currently unable to comply, and prioritisation for residents on the mooring waitlist. Since the plan's release in 2023, I have been clear that no resident was to become homeless from any changes and will fight to ensure MSQ honours their commitment to this. In addition, not tolerate further vitriol from those who have never shown any interest in protecting these residents. MSQ have again reiterated for anyone in difficult circumstances to contact them on 5373 2310 or via MSQnoosa@tmr.qld.gov.au, and to cc' my office.



Getting 'flagged' up



Noosa CWA Fundraiser



Our young "musos" in action



Turtle Hatchlings at Teewah



The Teewah Turtle Trackers

Former TAFE site – The reassessment of the buildings has been completed by the owners, the NRA Collaborative, with the original proposal to reinvigorate as a school of design no longer viable due to deterioration. The alternate proposal they have put forward is for independent seniors living, one of the few allowable uses under the site’s zoning, with assurances given by the owners that no clearing or impact to biodiversity overlays and koala habitat will occur. While the proposed development addresses an identified housing need, we continue to advocate that affordable worker accommodation, as our most pressing need, be prioritised. As well reiterated the importance of Noosa Council being fully involved in the assessment and consultation process, to ensure that the views of the Noosa community and the intent of the local planning scheme are properly considered. Understandably, as a community we remain angry over the sequence of events since 2014 that led to this, however it is time to move forward and work to ensure this type of waste by governments never occurs again. The full history of the site, is available at <https://bit.ly/4ryfxaB>

Operation Sandstorm - QPS conducted further enforcement operations across Noosa North Shore, Teewah and the Cooloola Recreation Area over the Christmas period, with more than 230 Traffic Infringement Notices issued, including over 90 for speeding, with the highest recorded speed of 83 km/h occurring in the 40 km/h Teewah zone. More than 500 Random Breath Tests and 60 Random Drug Tests resulted in charges against three drink drivers and eight drug drivers. Even though these efforts are appreciated, we continue to raise with the relevant ministers the need for stronger measures to address unacceptable and dangerous behaviours whether on our roads and paths, or national parks. The Cooloola Recreation Area Management Plan is expected to be released soon, and we will update once it is available.

Turtle Nesting Season - Volunteers have been hard at work since the beginning of the nesting season to locate nests on Teewah Beach, with them reporting 21 nests at the time of writing, and a number disturbed by vehicle traffic resulting in damaged and destroyed eggs. Hundreds of viable eggs have been moved to safer positions so that these loggerhead and green turtles hatch in the coming weeks so please, can everyone assist by slowing down, not driving during dusk/ night/high tide and staying well off the dunes when walking or driving. These dudes head towards moon/starlight in their journey to the ocean, and our headlights and torches create confusion!

From the Chamber

Electoral Reform – In the final sitting of Queensland Parliament for 2025, amid urgency motions and cognate bills, the Government tabled legislation framed as “electoral reform” that would lift the ban on property developers donating to political parties and candidates. It would also change donation caps from a four-year parliamentary term to annual limits, potentially quadrupling donations over a single term. This runs counter to what Queenslanders have called for and to warnings from major inquiries including Fitzgerald, Operation Belcarra and Coaldrake. Real reform would ban all donations, as 78% of respondents to our Noosa MP Annual Survey supported, not expand them. Democracy should serve the public interest, not those with the biggest cheque books.



Doing a HEIC Public Hearing via Zoom

Health, Environment & Innovation Committee – While parliament has been on break over the Christmas holidays, our committee work has continued including on the inquiry into the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (EPOLA) Bill. As I raised in my Statement of Reservation to the Committee report, there are concerns that these changes could have implications for Noosa, including a single access permit for activities across national parks, conservation areas and marine parks. The response from the department regarding control measures are not sufficient, as these have not been historically meeting community expectations. To watch the full briefing, visit <https://bit.ly/4bvGrv3> To read the committee report, head to www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5826t0028/5826t28.pdf.

SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy – The Queensland Government is calling for community feedback to help shape a new South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy, aimed at reversing declining koala numbers and restoring critical habitat. We encourage all to read the discussion paper, share your views and offer ideas to strengthen protections for koalas. Submissions close 15 March 2026. For more information and to have your say, visit <https://bit.ly/4bquGG2>.

Housing – The holiday period always brings increased demand for housing, and I want to thank all who assisted us in providing emergency accommodation including for those who arrived from elsewhere! A special mention to Lou, and as we have all had quite enough of governments making excuses for not funding transitional housing, I will be speaking about in Parliament this week, as well their reluctance to acknowledge the real need.



W/ Suncoast Legal Services



W/ QPS Assistant Commissioner Kevin Guteridge



Sunshine Beach Surf Club Meeting

On the Homefront

Noosa Christmas Day Lunch - Thank you again to all who made the 2025 Christmas Community Lunch sensational! The phenomenal volunteers who assisted Chef Tony to prepare and serve a feast for over one hundred Noosans, as well have presents under the tree. This day would not have been possible without Matt and the Salvos team, as well the support from Making Lives Matter. How blessed we are to live in this amazing community.

Australia Day Honours List – We celebrated two remarkable Noosans for their outstanding service to community and country. Rob Frey was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal, the highest honour in Australian fire services, recognising nearly 35 years with the Queensland Fire Department, including leadership during major incidents such as the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires and countless emergencies here in Noosa. Charlie Cobb was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for a lifetime of service, from national service in the 1950s to decades of community involvement through the Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch, Noosa Rotary, the Cooroora Woodworkers Club, and as an honorary ambulance bearer. Mega congratulations to both, so well deserved and we were all so thrilled!

Community Benefit Fund - This is a call to all our community organisations and not for profits! Round 126 offers up to \$35,000 for projects that strengthen facilities, programs and services, is now open. Remember to apply before 28 February 2026 and join the many successful Noosa clubs who have used these grants to do great things for our community. To apply, visit www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants. If you need a referral or Letter of Support, please email my office via noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au.



Chef Tony & the Xmas Elves



Pavlova duty



Australian Fire Service Medal Recipient
Rob Frey



Charlie Cobb awarded Order of Australia Medal



Celebrating our Newest Aussies



Citizenship Ceremony @ The J

Noosa MP Community Survey - Thank you to everyone who took part in our annual survey, which assists us identifying the ‘temperature’ of responders on state related issues or what may be raised in Parliament. 600 responses, even though considered an appropriate sample, is not at the level we would like to see as broader engagement, especially from that elusive ‘silent majority’! We are currently collating the results for release before next month and welcomed constructive critique from a resident on the methodology, which has resulted in some funds normally dedicated to community grants to address the concerns raises, which you will see during our next ‘annual’!

Meetings, Drop-ins & Catch-ups – It was a big month of meetings and drop-ins, including with QPS Assistant Commissioner Kevin Guteridge, the Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary and their efforts to find a suitable property to expand their care for our wildlife during recovery and release, as well Janelle from Rize & Thrive Co. who had some awesome news on progress with our youngsters. In addition, with MSQ’s Kell and Gary for a progress report on assistance being provided and transitional plans for anyone experiencing hardship, and Department of Education Regional Director Lyal Giles on upcoming works for our schools, and especially our hard fought for Advanced Manufacturing unit at Sunshine Beach High which now just needs construction funding! A session with the team from the Sunshine Beach Surf Club on their SERF plans revealed not only the needs of our emergency responders, also the imminent retirement of Russell Green who has dedicated 4 decades to the club, and assisted many clubs pro bono over the years with planning applications which has been deeply appreciated, and we are envious of his travel plans!

And Finally...

As you know, I have intense love for all in our community, and over the near decade I have been a representative, I have responded always to social media tags, answered respectfully to criticism, queried ridiculous comments as well monitored our page for any poor behaviours. This as part of creating a knowledgeable community who is not vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation, whether on or offline. However, the increase in poor behaviours, vitriolic politically motivated posts and AI generated commentary and correspondence to chew up resources has led me to be very clear. Our office must focus on what needs to be done and those who require assistance in our community, not responding to the outrageous, ridiculous and offensive. There are no reasons for anyone to spread misinformation, as facts are readily available online, via posts, Noosa 360, in these and other columns, on radio and our newsletter. A knowledgeable, informed community makes good decisions, so please keep spreading the word to engage and participate so that our home remains the sensational place it is to work, rest and play!

Until next month embrace the many gifts that we all enjoy living where we do and give appreciation to those who make possible those gifts. And if you need any assistance, please call us on 53193100 or email noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au. as my staff are back from their holidays and we look forward to hearing from you!



W/ Education Regional Director Lyall Giles



Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary

Sandy 🙏
Independent Member for Noosa
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KEY CONTACTS

Emergency			
Cooroy Police Station	5442 5030	Suicide call back service	1300 659 467
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000	Women's Health QLD	1800 017 676
Emergency Services	000	General Support	
Lifeline	13 11 14	Animal Welfare League Qld	5509 9000
Noosa Police Station	5440 8111	Australian Red Cross	1300 885 698
Pomona Police Station	5485 2586	Child and Family Services	1800 177 135
Policelink	131 444	Child Safety	1300 703 921
State Emergency Services	132 500	Good Shepherd	1300 050 150
Housing & DFV Support		Making Lives Matter	5238 8181
Better Together Housing	0427 465 148	National Debt Helpline	1800 007 007
Caloundra House		Pomona & District Community House	07 5485 2427
(NDIS focused, no children)	3517 0166	RSPCA Pet in Crisis Program	07 3426 9999
Centacare	1300 236 822	Salvos Mates Support	0423 317 375
Community Action Inc		St Vincent de Paul Society	
Gympie	5482 6188	Queensland	1800 846 643
DVConnect – men's line	1800 600 636	The Hub Food Outlet	5449 9658
DVConnect – women's line	1800 811 811	The Salvation Army	07 3001 6288
Homeless Hotline	1800 474 753	Waves of Kindness Care Centre	0499091352
IFYS Limited (Youth)	5438 3000	Seniors	
Kybara Community Association Inc	5441 3837	Elder Abuse Hotline	1300 651 192
Maroochydore Housing Service Centre (Dept of Housing)	5352 7333	Seniors Card QLD	137 468
Pomona Community House	5485 2427	Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
SunnyKids – 07 5479 0394		U3A Noosa	5440 5500
The Salvation Army Supported Accommodation Service		Legal	
Sunshine Coast (Nambour)	5447 1184	Community Legal Centres	02 9160 9500
Youturn Youth Services	5442 4277	Legal Aid QLD	5433 6200
Health Support		LGBTI Legal Services	3124 7160
1800Respect	1800 737 732	Public Trustee of Queensland	1300 360 044
Alcoholics Anonymous Australia	1300 222 222	Queensland Ombudsman	1800 068 908
Blue Care	1300 258 322	Suncoast Community Legal Service	5376 7800
Blueknot	1300 657 380	Women's Legal Service Qld	1800 957 957
Carramar - Aged Care Tewantin	5449 8799	Youth Law Australia	1800 950 570
Head to Health	1800 595 212	Noosa River	
Headspace	5409 4900	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	1800 627 484
Katie Rose Hospice	5471 1468	Coast Guard Noosa QF5	5474 3695
Lives Lived Well	1300 727 957	Fishwatch Hotline	1800 017 116
Medicines Line	1300 633 424	Maritime Safety QLD	5373 2310
Mensline Australia	1300 789 978	QLD Boating and Fisheries	5449 7555
Mental Health Carer		Energy and Water	
Arafmi QLD	1800 554 660	Energex	13 12 53
Mental Health Access Line	1300 642 255	Energy and Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Narcotics Anonymous Australia	1300 652 820	Unitywater	1300 086 48
Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline	1800 250 015	Federal	
National Home Doctor	13 74 25	Fairfax - Ted O'Brien	5479 2800
Noosa Community Health Centre	07 5449 5944	Wide Bay - Llew O'Brien	4121 2936
Noosa Hospital	5455 9200	Noosa Shire Council	
Ozcare – Aged Care Tewantin	1800 692 273	General Enquiries	5329 6500
Parent line	1300 301 300	Other Services	
Poisons Information	131 126	QPWS (National Parks)	13 74 68
QLD Health	13 43 25 84	Noosa District Animal Hospital 24/7	5473 0004
Quitline	13 78 48	Sippy Creek Animal Pound	5494 5275
Sexual Assault Helpline	1800 010 120	State Roads (Urgent Issues)	13 19 40
StandBy	1300 727 247	Translink	13 12 30
		Wildlife Noosa	0419 046 999
		Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc	07 5441 6200