

NOOSA PARKS ASSOCIATION Inc.

Noosa Parks Association
Environment Centre
Wallace Park
5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville
www.noosaparks.org.au



All mail to:
Secretary
P.O. Box 836
Noosa Heads Qld 4567
office@noosaparks.org.au

4 January 2016

Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

By email to bestplanning@dilgp.qld.gov.au

NPA Submission: Draft Planning Instruments

Dear Sirs

Noosa Parks Association (NPA) is Noosa's premier environmental organisation, which provides a voice for the people of Noosa Shire about protecting Noosa's environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

To ensure appropriate and sustainable development, the NPA is strongly committed to legislative and regulatory planning processes that safeguard:

- the autonomy of local planning and development
- the community having a say in local planning and development matters without penalty.

NPA made two previous submissions to the Department regarding Better Planning for Queensland:

- NPA Submission re: Better Planning for Queensland Directions Paper - 20 July 2015
- NPA Submission re: Draft Planning Bills - 3 October 2015.

In line with these, NPA now contributes this feedback about the draft planning instruments.

1. Devolution of Guidelines into Supporting Instruments

NPA strongly opposes the Government removing key elements from the Act into subsidiary instruments, making them easier to change at the whim of future governments without the need for parliamentary assent. This includes guidelines for:

- Creation and amendment of planning schemes
- Assessment managers
- Public notification
- Lapsing provisions.

2. Public Notification

- 2.1. NPA strongly opposes that in the DA Rules no guidelines have been provided to local governments to define when development must be impact assessable and therefore publically notified.

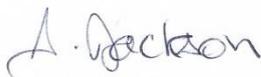
This creates potential for inconsistencies between local governments and for differing interpretations depending on local governments of the day, and could expose the planning framework to corrupt practice.

- 2.2. NPA strongly opposes the removal of the mandatory requirement of public notification in newspapers, with this instead being at the discretion of Assessment Managers. [Draft DA Rules, Table 2, s 27]

Without notice in newspapers, the public is less likely to be alerted to development applications, thereby significantly reducing community ability to have a say. Leaving this to Assessment Manager discretion may lead to inconsistencies and potential corrupt practice.

NPA supports Government reform and urges the safeguarding local council authority and community input via resilient and consistent legislation and regulation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the letter 'i'.

Ingrid Jackson

Honorary Secretary
Noosa Parks Association