

CANDIDATES FOR MAROOCHYDORE RESPONSES TO DEVELOPMENT WATCH QUESTIONS

LABOR : BILL GISSANE

Dear Marion

Thank you for the opportunity to address your members directly regarding the Yaroomba proposal.

First, let me answer your question regarding my disposition towards the proposal.

Please be aware that I am implacably opposed to this proposal and I will do whatever is necessary to ensure that it does not proceed.

If I can give you some insight into my position, it stems from an initial reaction when I read about it in the paper. My wife and I moved to the Coast to enjoy our retirement in an environment that mostly gets the balance right between amenity and development. After living overseas and with the children grown up, we had the choice of returning to Australia and living anywhere we chose. Our decision was vindicated very quickly and we have become zealous advocates in the protection of our adopted home's gifts. Accordingly, when we saw the Yaroomba proposal, it immediately jarred our senses. As yachties, we always marvel at the beauty of the North Shore from a mile or two off the coast. To desecrate this magnificent part of the world would be beyond imaginable. After further education, I have learned that the proposal is environmentally, socially and financially unsound. It smacks of a return to the bad old days of white shoes and all the shenanigans that attended that form of footwear. Lest I be accused of being "anti-development", let me add that I am in support of the broad proposal concerning Maroochydore CBD. I describe myself as an advocate of sensible development.

My opponent in the election, the sitting member, is a worthy representative. Her advocacy of opposition to the development is laudable. I don't have a problem with the sitting member however I have a big problem with the company she keeps. Regardless of how many late conversions have been made by the premier to "let the council decide", we all know the attitude of this government. There are just too many precedents where the planning minister has intervened directly and indirectly to ensure inappropriate development has ensued. We can't allow this to occur despite the best intentions of the sitting member.

The challenge then is this - there is only one way of preventing this development. On January 31st, A vote for the LNP is vote for the status quo and the council will continue unimpeded. It's going to be hard for many voters, but to stop this development they will have to vote for me as a Queensland Labor representative. Whether they do that by voting Green or PUP first, the final verdict relies on putting me above the LNP in your fully completed ballot form 1 to 4. The decision is now yours.

In answer to your second question regarding "calling in" the proposal let me answer in this manner.

I will do everything (and I mean everything) within my legal and moral power as the member for Maroochydore to prevent this proposal advancing. If a Labor government is returned on January 31st, I will fight tooth and nail to ensure the council does not approve the proposal. A vote for me in

Maroochydore will send the clearest possible message to the Mayor that his view on Yaroomba is at odds with the residents, the state government, the local member and his own plan. I can't speak for a prospective Labor government just yet, but I can speak for me. If the council continues with this folly, they will be engaged in a momentous battle with me as the local representative to ensure the peoples' will is adhered to. I will be delighted to take a position to the government to enable a "call in" if that is what is required.

May I wish your wonderful organisation all the very best and I will be happy to continue to learn from your wisdom, insight and honesty.

Here's to a great 2015

Bill Gissane
Queensland Labor candidate for Maroochydore

GREENS : TRUDY BYRNES

Dear Marian,

RE: SEKISUI HOUSE DEVELOPMENT/SUNSHINE COAST PLANNING SCHEME

I refer to your letter of 16 January 2015, and I would like to advise the following in response to your questions:

1/ Whether you support the Sekisui House proposal and the Council's intention to amend the Sunshine Coast planning scheme to facilitate the proposal;

NO, I absolutely do not support the Sekisui House proposal and the Sunshine Coast Council's proposed amendments to the Town Planning Scheme to facilitate this proposal. If this proposal was to go ahead and town planning changed to accommodate it then this would be in direct contrast to what the local people want. The hundreds of signs around Yaroomba and Coolum in residents' front yards against such a proposal is testament to the sentiment of local people. Such changes to town planning would set an adverse precedent and what we could then see could be copycat projects all along the North coast. Locals have fought for a long time to stop high rise development in this region and Council and State government should respect this.

We don't want this high rise development here and the site is simply not appropriate for it. In addition to the high rise issue, the Yaroomba Beach is also an environmentally sensitive location including a major turtle nesting area. Also the sheer number of high rise buildings proposed would create many more residential or holiday units than is appropriate for this site. This would create an ugly landscape and substantially increase traffic along David Low Way. Travel times would increase for locals going in both directions, North or South of David Low Way, and this is not what people want. The proposed developed is simply not suitable for the site.

2/ Whether, if you win government, you support calling in the development proposal to allow the State to make the decision.

No again is my answer. I agree with others who have stated that if the development is called in by the State to make the decision, that decision is then final, and cannot be overturned. This is a huge gamble and too much of a risk to 'hope' the State would respect the will of the

local people. There is no guarantee the State would make a decision the local community want.

Generally speaking, the Queensland Greens are not keen on the State Government 'calling in' a project to make a decision overriding the Council, as they almost always do so in favour of developers. We are currently developing a policy that opposes the State Government calling in a development and/or amending the Town Plan to allow any extra development to occur by ignoring/overriding community opposition.

Kind regards

Trudy Byrnes

Greens Candidate For Maroochydore

Coolum Beach. Qld 4573

Telephone: 0468408015

Email: trudybyrnes@gmail.com

LNP : FIONA SIMPSON

We didn't send the questionnaire to Fiona as it has been well publicised.
Following are a few letters from her:

Thanks for your further emails about the proposed development at Yaroomba by Sekisui House.

As you know, the issue is currently before Council who are considering whether or not they amend their Town Plan to accommodate any future planning application made by Sekisui House.

The Deputy Premier is correct in saying this is a matter for Council.

I have made my views known to Council, who is responsible for the Town Plan, and in the media, that the type of development proposed by Sekisui House is not appropriate in this location and I am urging others to do so as well by making their views known to their local Councillor.

This is the appropriate course of action at this time. I have also advised the Premier of my opposition to high rise and density of this type in this area and received his assurances that the State Government will not override the wishes of the Council and myself as the local MP.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Simpson

Hon Fiona Simpson MP

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PUP: JAMES MCDONALD

No formal response received.

For ABC audio interviews on Maroochydore candidates:

http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2015/01/state-election-2015-maroochydore-electorate.html?site=sunshine&program=sunshine_cooloola_coast_mornings#.VMGZvgr6O4M.facebook

Sunshine Coast Daily candidate interviews: <http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/lnp-speaker-fiona-simpson-enters-her-ninth-electio/2514637/>