

Locals slam "creatively edited statistics"

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Friends of Lake Weyba (FoLW) this week slammed the proposed Noosa on Weyba (NoW) developers for "peddling their creatively edited statistics to the local community".

The group says that contrary to what the developers are claiming, the "proposal would be a disaster for Lake Weyba and its surrounding ecosystems".

The developers say NoW will "protect 245 hectares of wildlife habitat as a major component of the development application" currently before Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Development director for the project, Steve MacRae, said a site analysis showed that "240 hectares of the 303 hectares site area will either remain untouched or become part of protected environmental zones".

"This means that around 80 per cent of the site will be retained for environmental protection," he said.

But FoLW President Anita Brake said the land the NoW consortium wish to "donate" to the State Government for National Park is already protected under local planning regulations.

"This land is designated Open Space Conservation or Rural under the Noosa Plan. The protected



'Still Standing Strong' by FoLW member, Kirsty Richardson

status of this land was recognised by both Sunshine Coast Regional Council and the State Government's own Department of Environment and Heritage Protection when they recommended against the declaration of the Biodiversity Development Offset Agreement.

"The NoW team should not include this area in the statistics of land they will "protect" as it is already protected. In fact, the biggest threat to this land is from the Noosa on Weyba proposal itself."

Ms Brake said statistics for the remaining site being considered for

development are alarming.

"FoLW has examined documents submitted to Council by the developer and estimate that the housing precincts proposed would cover approximately 70 hectares or 43 per cent of the land. This doesn't include land that would be required for roads or other infrastructure," she said.

"Of the land closest to Lake Weyba this density increases to 70 per cent with a clubhouse, retail centre, apartments, attached and detached housing being designated for the lake shore. 11,200 mature

trees would be removed across the site.

"Our group and the local community can see through the green wash coming from the NoW team. This has been reflected in the public support FoLW has received over the last year and in the 1000+ objections lodged during the public submission period.

"I'm confident the two Councils will carefully consider the development application and make the right decision for the future protection of this environmentally sensitive land."