

Noosa say in Weyba 'unfair'

By PETER GARDINER

ONE of the main drivers behind the Noosa on Weyba, developer Godfrey Mantle of the Mantle Group,

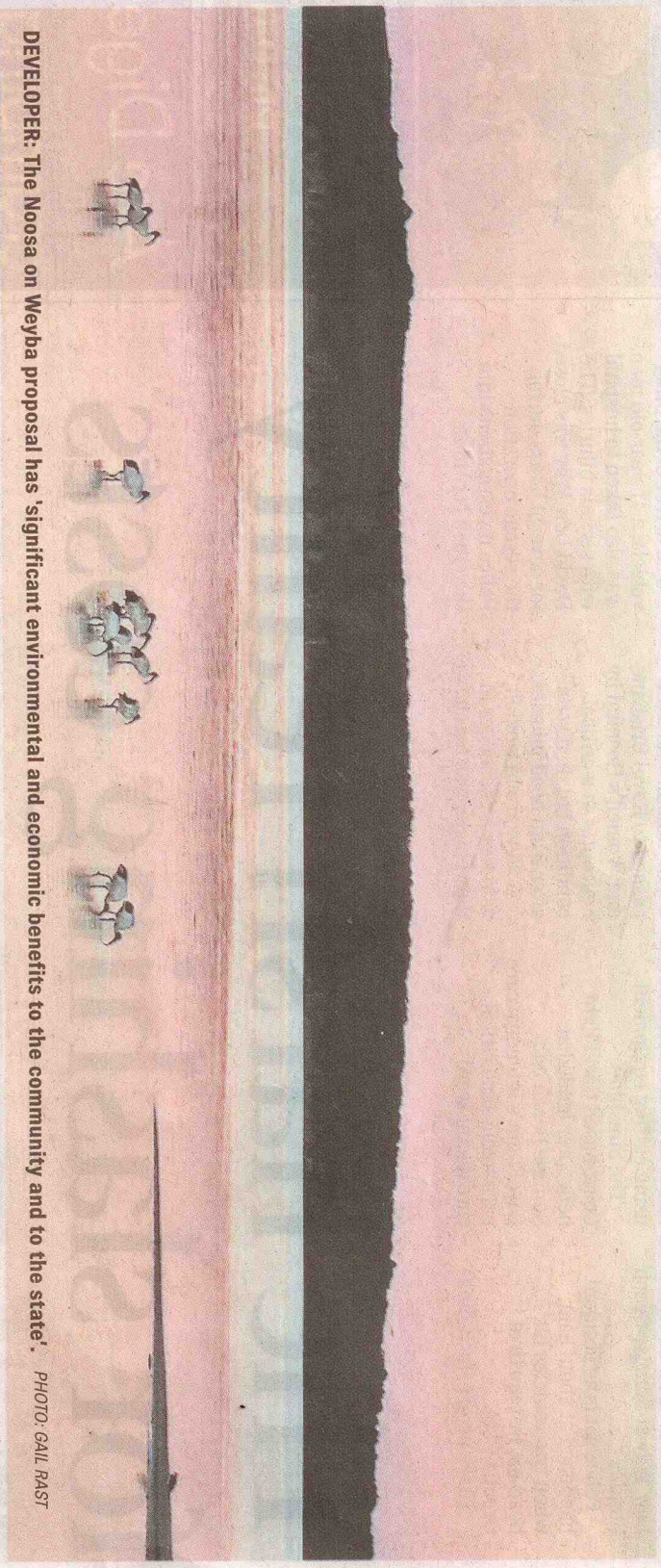
believes the Sunshine Coast Council has to decide his application for the reason of "really basic fairness".

He told State Parliament's Transport, Housing and Local Government

Committee in a face-to-face meeting in October when it first recommended a new Noosa Council to a deciding say in the application: "If you make an application to one particular council, then it should be decided by that council unless all of the parties, including us, agree otherwise, and we do not agree that it should be decided by another council.

"Our application has taken over three years to form. We have spent over \$2.6 million – that is myself and my elderly neighbours – and we have jointly also paid a \$380,000 application fee. We have spent this money on the understanding that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council would decide the application.

"In fact, when I asked my neighbour to join with me to share costs and he agreed, I submitted that it would be done in a way that we felt



DEVELOPER: The Noosa on Weyba proposal has 'significant environmental and economic benefits to the community and to the state'.

PHOTO: GAIL RAST

we had good prospects with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council."

Mr Mantle told the committee his neighbours were long-time local property holders John and Kathy Hofmann.

Mr Mantle said the two councils had "radically different regimes and views of planning".

"The simple point is that Noosa so disliked being part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and its planning methods and ideas

that it de-amalgamated. That is clear proof that it is going to be a very different regime and unfair for us in

terms of such a change. "We have gone for three years, spent an enormous amount of money and effort

– DEVELOPER GODFREY MANTLE OF THE MANTLE GROUP

The simple point is that Noosa so disliked being part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and its planning methods and ideas that it de-amalgamated.

and then if it was taken away to another council you would have huge delays and great uncertainty. We would submit that that would be very unfair."

He said an amendment giving Noosa a say jeopardises very significant environmental and economic benefits to the community and to the state.

"First of all with regard to the environment, we are proposing at no cost to give 139,5ha of land – waterfront land – independently valued

for national park purposes at \$18.6 million to the state government for national park at no cost," Mr Mantle said.

"We are talking 2023 construction jobs.

"Once we are fully built, we will have created in the community, permanently, 309 full-time permanent jobs, an annual injection into the economy of \$22.6 million and, God bless the councils, \$660,000 worth of rates going to the council annually.