



...makes a point at a climate change rally at Quota Park, Nambour.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN

Claims of benefit for koalas scorned

CLAIMS by a Noosa On Weyba consultant that the proposed residential development would produce a "modest net benefit" to the koala population have been met with scorn by Sunshine Coast environmentalists.

In a release from the project's developer Northbrook Corporation, koala consultant Dr Frank Carrick praised the proposed project's community title scheme that would include an annual environmental levy paid by residents to improve education about the species and to assist with domestic animal control.

Environmentalists say they have heard it all before from Dr Carrick, who also was a consultant to the developers of Ridges at Peregrine.

They say lessons learnt there can not be ignored or they will be repeated.

Sunshine Coast Environment Council campaigner Narelle McCarthy said measures proposed by Dr Carrick at Ridges achieved nothing in protecting the indigenous koala population and led to a broader decline in numbers.

Ms McCarthy said Dr Carrick was an expert witness called by the Ridges developers during 2006 court proceedings about the merits of that application.

"Frank Carrick was supposed to develop a koala sensitive urban design code and a number of other measures to protect koalas."

Ms McCarthy said a number of measures were specified by the consultant to protect koalas and facilitate their movement, including vegetated buffers and corridors, reduced vehicle speeds, the planting of food trees and a cats and dogs by-law to restrict the impact of domestic pets.

"None of those measures has been implemented," she said.

Public submissions to the Noosa on Weyba development application close on December 10.

For clean energy

...tional rally to keep heat on climate change action



...VERNMENT: Professor Ian Lowe wins cheers for his address at the rally.

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and about and keep it high on the agenda."

The enthusiastic crowd was united in their message to the Federal Government for climate change action, urging policy makers to put a price on carbon.

"Climate change is not getting any attention at any level of government at the moment, except from the Greens.

"Climate change has slipped off the agenda because it is too inconvenient

to talk about it," Maleny resident Noni Keys said. "The carbon tax is not going to go away because politicians have stopped talking about it. I think that is what has brought people here to this rally, to let them know that we are still talking about it."

Guest speaker, Australian Conservation Foundation president Ian Lowe, flew the flag for climate change action in his address to the cheering crowd.

in the Arctic sea ice is shrinking, glaciers are retreating, the habitat range of plants animals are changing, sea levels are rising, and we see everywhere evidence of more extreme events.

"Whether it's bushfires in the Blue Mountains in October or super typhoons hitting the Philippines or dare I say, tennis ball-size hail hitting Buderim, everywhere you look there are more frequent and severe extreme events.

"We want the government to take up on the lead of the community of moving towards clean energy.

"Serious studies can show we could power Australia entirely by renewable energy within 10 or 15 years if we were serious about."

The National Day of Climate Change Action campaign has been strong on social media, with hundreds of people sharing photos and videos on Twitter, Instagram