

# Key role in NOW assessment

## Noosa Council wins control

By PETER GARDINER

NOOSA Mayor Noel Playford has backed the decision of the Sunshine Coast Council to allow Noosa to have the key role of assessment manager of the Noosa on Weyba project set to be deliberated in the next couple of months.

And he made the announcement at the first Noosa Council ordinary meeting last Thursday to loud applause from the packed public gallery.

"It's the right decision because most of the impact of this development application is well and truly inside the Noosa Shire," Cr Playford said.

Noosa Council's legal jurisdiction will now cover the entire development application. He said the Sunshine

Coast Council will have until February 14 to make its determination on the part of the project that lies within its boundaries, and it will advise Noosa Council of its support or opposition.

Cr Playford said it will then be up to Noosa Council to make a final decision on the application.

At a November 25 confidential Sunshine Coast Council special meeting, it was decided Noosa would become the assessment manager for NOW in what Councillor Tony Wellington said was a "touch-and-go" vote.

The Coast Council is to be the concurrence agency role. Cr Wellington said under recent changes to the Local Government Act, the council that takes on the concurrence agency role can only make a determination over that

part of the development that lies in their own council area.

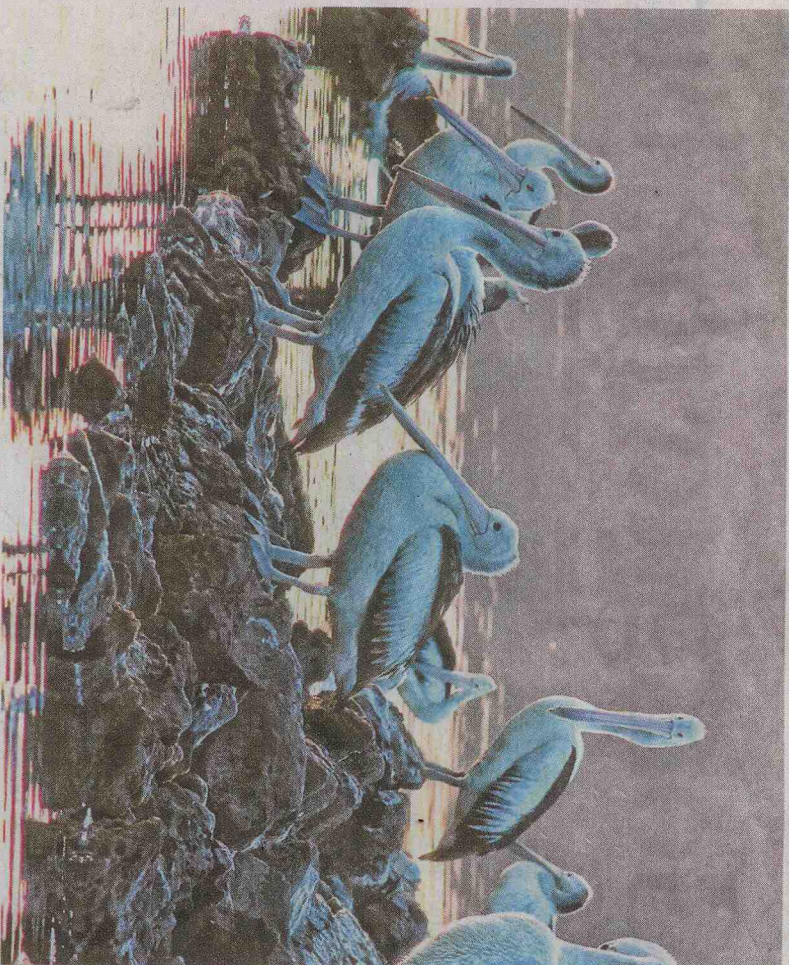
"The primary assessment manager can consider the development as a whole," Cr Wellington said.

"It was a great relief to be able to convince a majority of Sunshine Coast councillors to support that position.

"But it was certainly touch-and-go there for a while," he said.

Mr Wellington was not able to comment on the vote details until after Sunshine Coast Council's CEO John Knaggs informed the new Noosa Council's acting CEO Peter Franks.

Mr Knaggs had until two days of the January council change-over to reveal the decision and Cr Wellington was relieved that "the matter can at last be made public".



**DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:** Noosa Council will make the final decision on the controversial NOW development. Hazem Shouhdy, a Tewantin artist, snapped these photos at Lake Weyba.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED