

Council backs refusal

Application 'does not demonstrate sufficient community benefit'

A NOOSA Council motion to support the staff recommendation at last night's meeting was moved by planning committee chairman Frank Wilkie.

On Monday Cr Wilkie said the Noosa on Weyba application received more than 1000 submissions - "most of them against the development".

"It proposes to place 2370 people and up to 1008 dwellings outside the South East Queensland Plan's urban footprint - some 500 homes either side of Walter Hay Dr," he said.

"The land is mostly zoned rural and open space conservation. On land that drains in part to Lake Weyba.

"It raises planning conflicts expressed in 17 reasons for refusal and does not demonstrate sufficient community benefit to overcome this significant conflict with the Noosa Plan."

Cr Wilkie said the biodiversity offset which proposed to transfer 139ha to Noosa National Park and "allowed this application to be lodged in the first place", would "be negated by intensive clearing of some 2240 trees to accommodate these dwellings".



REFUSED: Noosa On Weyba has received a refusal motion from the council this week.

He said the development would result in the net loss of habitat with streets severing environmental corridors.

Cr Joe Jurisevic supported Cr Wilkie's biodiversity offset

comments and noted this was one of the main reasons why the State Government allowed the application to

"go forward". The refusal motion gained the support of all seven Noosa councillors.

PHOTO: GEOFF POTTER

Smaller bus call in Noosa

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"I don't think anything is insurmountable and I think it's something that Noosa Council should have a conversation with the (relevant) Translink people about," Mr McGill said.

He said Translink spends about \$14 million a year on the Noosa bus network.

"One thing good to know is the frequency of buses between Noosa Junction and Tewantin is 15 minutes - that counts it as a high frequency corridor, which is the optimal level of service that Translink aims for.

"The frequency between Noosa Junction and Noosa Heads is actually seven minutes and that's really fantastic and not seen in many locations. So it's a fabulous service to have."

Mr McGill said the bus passengers in Noosa were a mixed lot of all ages.

"We're getting really good customer feedback on how the network's going.

"People really love Noosa Junction station, the Maroochydore connection which is bus route 620 and the rail connections on 630 and 631. People also really love the free holiday period which is an initiative of council that Translink supports."