



IN THE BALANCE: A jabiru wanders near survey pegs at the proposed Noosa on Weyba development site.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Mayor's easy decision

Planner's assessment of development sums it up

By PETER GARDINER

COUNCIL senior planner Dennis Wallace's assessment of the Noosa on Weyba development application has left Mayor Noel Playford in no doubt as to how he would vote last night on what has been touted as \$500 million "certified benefit" to koalas and a creator of more than 2000 local jobs.

"If council is being asked to approve an application that doesn't comply with the planning instruments in

a lot of different ways, then there needs to be really strong community benefits to overcome that problem," Cr Playford said.

"I think it is important to look at a number of these desired regional outcomes which are listed for all of south-east Queensland, not just for Noosa, and to see whether this application complies with them," Cr Playford said at last Monday's council committee meeting.

"Of course the applicant says that the development

meets all the desired regional outcomes listed in the regional plan."

However Mr Playford said the assessment was:

"Sustainability
employment change – does not comply. Natural environment – does not comply. Regional landscape – does not comply. Natural resources – does not comply. Strong communities – does not comply. Compact settlement – does not comply. Infrastructure – does not comply. Water management – does not

comply."

"So I think that says it all to me, it is completely against the community interest and obviously on Thursday night, I don't think I will have much difficulty voting in the way I intend to vote today.

"And that is to recommend to council on Thursday night that we refuse it," the mayor said.

The committee voted unanimously to support the recommendation for refusal ahead of last night's full council deciding vote.