

Support continues

SUNSHINE Coast Division 10 Councillor Greg Rogerson has reinforced his council's position in relation to not supporting a proposed local government boundary change that would transfer Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs (EDV) to the Noosa Shire Council.

He was speaking in response to comments in Your Say (NN 24-03) suggesting the major political parties will be rejected and One Nation will flourish because neither the LNP nor the ALP have supported the proposal.

"The Sunshine Coast Council does not support this boundary change proposal - and nor do a large number of EDV residents who have lived in the area for generations," Cr Rogerson said.

"The suggestion by Paul Prentice that an established majority of residents supports the change is deliberately misleading and the so-called community 'surveys' undertaken by the group he represents have been shown to contain serious flaws.

"The reasons why the EDV localities should remain in the Sunshine Coast are pretty straightforward: One, these localities have always been part of the Sunshine Coast,



Cr Greg Rogerson.

and formerly the Maroochy, local government area. They have never been a part of the Noosa council area.

"Two, they have been serviced, supported and resourced by our council since local government was established in this region in the late 19th Century.

"Three, the Maroochy River rises in the Blackall Range and the Eumundi area. Our council does not wish to see an important and historic part of its most significant river system transferred to another local government area.

"Four, these localities have strong community of interest linkages with the Sunshine Coast area. Of the more than 3100 working residents in these localities, approximately 70% are employed in the Sunshine Coast Council area.

"Five, since 2008, nearly 25% of land acquired by our

council using its environment levy - or over 252 hectares - is situated in this area. This land has been paid for by the ratepayers of the Sunshine Coast and it would be inappropriate to hand this over to another council.

"Six, the continuing divisional arrangements provide these localities with equal representation to those in all other divisions. The EDV Residents Group's expectation of greater influence over an election outcome in Noosa is not only misguided and inappropriate, it could not be achieved in the undivided Noosa Council area.

"Seven, The EDV Group's expectation of better services and lower rates if the localities transferred to Noosa is also misleading and cannot be guaranteed.

"Eight, there is no independent evidence to demonstrate that greater economic benefits would flow from being part of the Noosa Council area.

"Nine, the annual investment that the Sunshine Coast makes in the area in terms of road maintenance and upgrades, bridge replacement, public facilities, the Eumundi markets area upgrade and many other services could not be matched by Noosa Council."