



# **AGENDA**

## **Special Meeting**

**Wednesday, 16 June 2021**

**commencing at 10.00am**

**Council Chambers, 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin**

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**Crs Clare Stewart (Chair), Karen Finzel, Joe Jurisevic, Amelia Lorentson,  
Brian Stockwell, Tom Wegener, Frank Wilkie**

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*“Noosa Shire – different by nature”*

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**REPORTS****1 2021/22 NOOSA COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

**Author** Director Corporate Services, Michael Shave  
Corporate Services Department

**Index** ECM/ 7.29 - 2021 – 2022 Budget

**Attachments** 1 Your Say Noosa Submitted Ideas  
2 Summary of Email Submissions

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the report by the Director Corporate Services to the Special Meeting dated 16 June 2021 regarding the 2021/22 Draft Budget consultation outcomes and:

- A. Note the submissions received as summarised in Attachments 1 and 2 and thank the submitters for their input into the Council 2021/22 budget process.
  - B. Note that Councillors will consider the feedback received to finalise the development and adoption of the 2021/22 Council budget.
  - C. To address transparency concerns regarding the discontinuation of the Tourism and Economic Levy, agree to include in the 2021/22 budget and all future Council adopted budget documents and monthly financial reporting, details of the level of budget investment and funds management for tourism and economic development.
  - D. Request the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the next round of Council meetings regarding the process to develop a new partnership funding agreement with Tourism Noosa which will commence on 1 July 2022 following the expiry of the current agreement on 30 June 2022.
  - E. Note that a review of Council's inaugural budget engagement process will be undertaken and reported back to a future Council meeting.
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**REPORT**

Under sections 104 and 107A of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council is required to adopt, for each financial year, after 31 May before the financial year and before 1 August in the financial year, a budget and revenue statement.

Council's budget process runs from November through to June each year and is a significant annual project for Council, requiring considerable organisational and Councillor input to ensure that budget decisions align with Corporate Plan objectives, Operational Plan targets and Financial Sustainability Policy requirements.

Council has commenced its inaugural community engagement process for its 2021/22 budget development, with a number of channels offered to elicit community feedback regarding budget priorities. The engagement approach has involved the following to date:

1. General communication of the process through Council social media channels, website and local newspapers.
2. Establishment of an online Council Budget Engagement Process project page via the Your Say Noosa tile on Council's website.
3. Introduction of the *Balance Your Noosa Council Operating Budget* participation tool where residents had the opportunity to change budget spending priorities whilst still having to balance the budget.
4. Encouraging general submissions regarding community budget priorities on the Council Your Say webpage via ideas, and also via email to Council's budget feedback email address.
5. Publishing of Council's 10 year capital plan for feedback.
6. Face to face sessions to allow residents to discuss budget priorities directly with Councillors.
7. Publishing of Council's draft budget for community feedback for a 2 week period ending 7 June 2021.

Feedback from the earlier budget engagement process was considered by Council at the [Special Meeting](#) on 23 April 2021.

### **DRAFT 2021-22 BUDGET CONSULTATION 24 MAY 2021 TO 7 JUNE 2021**

The draft budget was finalised and published for community feedback on Council's Your Say Noosa webpage for a 2 week period ending 7 June 2021. The following documents were provided for review and feedback:

#### Information Sheets

- 2021/22 Draft Budget Information Sheet 1 – Budget Overview
- 2021/22 Draft Budget Information Sheet 2 – Budget Financial Summary
- 2021/22 Draft Budget Information Sheet 3 – Proposed Changes to General Rates & Levies
- 2021/22 Draft Budget Information Sheet 4 – Proposed Capital Plan

#### Budget Documents

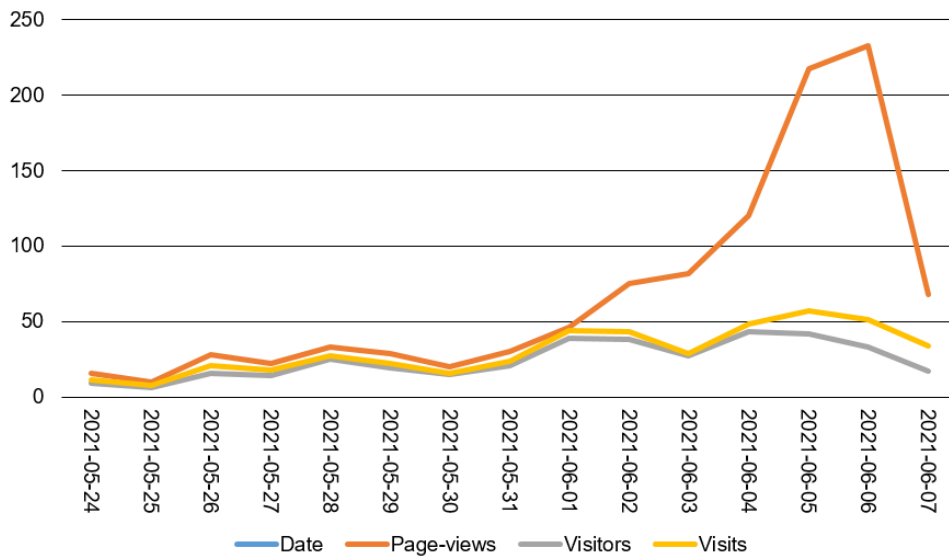
- 2021/22 Draft Financial Statements
- 2021/22 Rates and Charges Comparison
- 2021/22 Schedule of Levies and Separate Charges
- 2021/22 Capital Plan and 10 Year Capital Program

### **Engagement and Feedback Received**

#### **1 Your Say Noosa Interactions**

The draft budget documentation and information sheets were provided on the Your Say Noosa webpage on 24 May 2021. For the 2 week period the site was visited 453 times by 364 visitors. Over half of the 1,030 page views occurred in the last 3 days of the consultation period.

### Visitors Summary



Visitor - anonymous visitor to the Your Say webpage  
 Visits- a single browsing session which can include the same visitor  
 Page View - total number of times the webpage is viewed or refreshed

A summary of the feedback received on the draft budget is outlined below.

## 2 Your Say Noosa Submitted Ideas

Council encouraged residents and ratepayers to take the opportunity to send in specific suggestions and / or submissions on the draft budget via the Your Say Noosa webpage. 22 contributions occurred on the Your Say Noosa webpage with the majority of ideas and comments relating to the proposed transitory property rating category changes and discontinuation of the Tourism and Economic levy, with a mix of comments both supporting and opposing the proposed rating changes. The full list of ideas are provided as **Attachment 1** to this report.

## 3 Direct Feedback to Council’s Budget Email Address

Residents and ratepayers were also encouraged to email any specific budget priorities directly to Council’s budget email address [budgetfeedback@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:budgetfeedback@noosa.qld.gov.au). 93 email submissions were received which are summarised in **Attachment 2** to this report. Feedback was received by a cross section of the community including residents and ratepayers, resident and ratepayer groups, and also businesses and business associations. The majority of emails received were focused on the proposed transitory property rating category changes and proposed discontinuation of the Tourism and Economic levy.

## 4 Proposed Introduction of Transitory Accommodation Rating Categories

A number of responses (6 ideas and 17 emails) were received relating to the proposed introduction of transitory accommodation rating categories for approximately 4,300 properties currently offered for short stay accommodation. Responses were received from both impacted property owners (currently offering their property for short stay accommodation) objecting to the proposed increase for their property, and residents / ratepayers supporting the proposed transitory accommodation rating changes. A submission was also made by Stayz, an Expedia Group company (who along with Airbnb are one of the online short term and holiday rental market leaders) outlining concerns with the proposed rating changes.

## 5 Tourism and Economic Levy Discontinuation

A number of responses (12 ideas and 64 emails) were received relating to the discontinuation of the Tourism and Economic levy (currently funded by 6,000 property owners), arising (in part) as a result of a concerns raised by Tourism Noosa about the proposed changes. The issues raised by Tourism Noosa (facilitated by emails to their customer database on 4 and 6 June 2021) contained a number of assumptions regarding the purpose of Council's proposed rating changes, in particular suggesting that tourism destination funding would be jeopardised, stating that the current levy allows a level of protection and transparency of funding for tourism promotion, and also confusing the proposed rating changes and reason for the changes with future responsibility of providing tourism promotion activities (i.e. Council would be taking direct responsibility for tourism promotion activities which in hindsight, wasn't communicated well in Council's draft budget documentation).

As a result, a number of responses received included concerns that tourism funding would decrease as a result of the change, and also concerns that tourism promotion and management activities were going to be reduced or removed altogether from Tourism Noosa in the future. Some responses supported the discontinuation of the levy, suggesting a review / reduction of tourism funding levels and a review of the current levy arrangements.

As Councillors are aware, the allocation of funding to Tourism Noosa is the subject of a specific funding agreement between Council and Tourism Noosa. Regardless of whether revenue is collected via a Tourism & Economic Levy or via General Rates, the annual funding to Tourism Noosa is always determined by the funding agreement. The 2021/22 draft budget includes \$2.52 million required to be provided to Tourism Noosa under the current agreement. The current 5 year agreement, in place since 2017, has allocated a total funding amount of \$12.6 million to Tourism Noosa. As an example, the Tourism and Economic Levy was reduced by 5% in 2020/21 to reduce the financial impact on local businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic - but that had no impact on the \$2.52 million funding budgeted for and provided to Tourism Noosa.

Councillors will note that concerns have also been raised that there will be reduced transparency should revenue not be collected and constrained via a levy. Council's current funding agreement with Tourism Noosa specifies the required reporting mechanisms to ensure that Council can be satisfied that ratepayers funds provided to Tourism Noosa are being spent appropriately to deliver its business plan and strategy. Whether revenue is collected via a Levy or via General Rates, Council is obligated to ensure that the significant amount of ratepayers funds provided to Tourism Noosa are being managed efficiently and they will be required to provide ongoing reporting to Council in this regard.

To provide an additional level of transparency and to satisfy any concerns raised regarding the level of annual economic development investment from general rates (including tourism), it is recommended that Council's adopted budget include specific details of the annual budget investment in these activities in addition to monthly reporting of actual expenditure performance through Council's financial performance report.

It is also recommended that the Chief Executive Officer report to the next round of Council meetings outlining a process to develop a new partnership funding agreement with Tourism Noosa, to allay concerns raised in the feedback regarding Tourism Noosa's future funding allocation from Council.

**Previous Council Consideration*****Special Meeting Minutes, 23 April 2021, Item 1, Page 3***

*That Council note the report by the Director Corporate Services to the Special Meeting dated 23 April 2021 regarding the 2021/22 budget process community consultation outcomes and note that Councillors will consider the feedback received during the continuing development of the 2021/22 Council budget.*

***Ordinary Meeting Minutes, 18 February 2021, Item 4, Page 6***

*That Council note the report by the Director Corporate Services to the Services & Organisation Committee Meeting dated 9 February 2021 and endorse the proposed engagement process for the 2021/22 budget which includes the use of both online and face to face solutions to maximise feedback.*

***Ordinary Meeting Minutes, 15 October 2020, Item 7, Page 23***

*That Council note the report by the Director Corporate Services to the General Committee Meeting dated 12 October 2020 and:*

- A. Note the outcomes of the community budget consultation undertaken between 7–27 September 2020, provided as Attachment 1 to the report;*
- B. Note that Council will consider the priorities identified in the feedback when undertaking future 2020-21 budget reviews; and*
- C. Note the community's preference for online community budget engagement process for future budgets and request staff to report back to a future Council meeting with options.*

***Ordinary Meeting Minutes, 18 June 2020, Item 6, Page 10***

*That Council note the report by the Director Corporate Services to the Services & Organisation Committee Meeting dated 9 June 2020 and:*

- A. Following Council's adoption of the 2020/21 Budget, agree to engage with the community via Your Say Noosa on:
  - 1. How the allocation of any additional funding should be prioritised if it becomes available through the financial year; and*
  - 2. Where services/expenditure should be reduced if further budget reductions are required.**
- B. Agree to engage with the community on their preferred public consultation model for the 2021/22 budget process; and*
- C. Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to Council on the outcomes of both public consultation processes for Council's consideration before it meets to consider its scheduled Budget Review 2 in November 2020.*

**Finance**

The costs incurred to date to undertake the budget engagement process include software licencing and advertising as well as staff time. These costs have been absorbed in the current operating budget.

**Risks & Opportunities**

Risks

*Reputational* – Council has progressed down the path of consultation on future Council budgets. Community trust will likely be eroded should Council determine to abandon future budget consultation.

*Priorities* – Engagement processes with the community can achieve sub optimal outcomes and priority misalignment should wide engagement not occur as intended.

Opportunities

A budget consultation process is an opportunity to understand the spending priorities of our community and ensures that effective engagement continues to retain community confidence in Council processes and decision making.

**Consultation**

**External Consultation - Community & Stakeholder**

The purpose of the process was to elicit feedback from the general community regarding budget priorities for consideration for the development of the 2021/22 budget.

**Internal Consultation**

Community Engagement.

Departments/Sections Consulted:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chief Executive Officer</b><br>Executive Officer<br>Executive Support   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Community Services</b><br>Director<br>Community Development<br>Community Facilities<br>Libraries & Galleries<br>Local Laws<br>Waste & Environmental Health   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Corporate Services</b><br>X Director<br>Financial Services<br>ICT<br>Procurement & Fleet<br>Property<br>Revenue Services   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive Services</b><br>Director<br>X Community Engagement<br>Customer Service<br>Governance<br>People and Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Environment &amp; Sustainable Development</b><br>Director<br>Building & Plumbing Services<br>Development Assessment<br>Economic Development<br>Environmental Services<br>Strategic Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infrastructure Services</b><br>Director<br>Asset Management<br>Buildings and Facilities<br>Civil Operations<br>Disaster Management<br>Infrastructure Planning,<br>Design and Delivery |



## ATTACHMENT 1

## Summary of Your Say Noosa Draft Budget Ideas

No.	Contribution
1*	<p><b>RE: Noosa Council Draft Budget 2021-22</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>
2*	<p><b>RE: Noosa Council Draft Budget 2021-22</b></p> <p>The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p>
3	<p><b>Rate increase for short term stays</b></p> <p>Surely it must get to a point for some people renting a unit or flat or room, that it is no longer financially viable. With levies, rate increases and now having to pay a local agent, the costs associated are prohibitive to short term letting for some. Less accom options = less tourists = less dollars!</p>
4*	<p><b>Re. proposed changes to the Tourism Levy</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>
5*	<p><b>Protect Tourism!!</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>
6	<p><b>re proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, I disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business"</b></p>

No.	Contribution
7	<p><b>New rating categories for transitory accommodation (short stay) properties supported</b></p> <p>The introduction of new rating categories for transitory accommodation (short stay) properties is supported, but the rise is not commensurate with the nature of the properties and should be more. They are a business and should be paying commercial rates. The rise should be commensurate with the costs Council will incur when the new local law is adopted, as well as the increased demand on Council services and infrastructure.</p>
8	<p><b>The notion that tourism 'promotion' is core Council business is not supported</b></p> <p>The notion that tourism 'promotion' is core Council business is not supported. The 'levy' or a differential rate for tourism businesses needs to remain as a recognition of the burden tourism places on services and infrastructure for the Council as destination manager, but promotion should be the realm of a non-Council tourism organisation self-funded from membership fees.</p>
9	<p><b>The current arrangements for the Tourism Levy certainly need review</b></p> <p>The current arrangements for the Tourism Levy certainly need review, and it is hoped that the agreement with Tourism Noosa will be significantly changed when it comes up for review. Transferring these levy funds to a self- interested, industry organisation that has no transparency or responsibility to the community and no Council input might have been appropriate in a time when tourism in Noosa was struggling to gain its footing, but inappropriate in 2021/22 when little promotion is necessary, when the tourism industry is placing a massive burden on liveability and services and infrastructure in the shire, and where changes in direction in promotion might have adverse impacts on Council and community.</p> <p>Council's 'core business' in relation to tourism is its role as destination manager, and this uses a very significant portion of its resources, primarily paid for by non-tourism ratepayers. The tourism levy and the tourism industry should contribute more to that purpose than ordinary ratepayers. Applying the levy funds to more than just granting them to an opaque organisation for tourism promotion would be a beginning.</p>
10	<p><b>Tourism Noosa has been operating without Council input and without residents having a say in how funds are spent. It's time for a change</b></p> <p>Time for Tourism Noosa to stand on their own two feet.</p>
11	<p><b>Support increased rates for STAs</b></p> <p>The introduction of new rating categories for transitory accommodation (short stay) properties is supported, but the rise is not commensurate with the nature of the properties and should be more. They are a business and should be paying commercial rates. The rise should be commensurate with the costs Council will incur when the new local law is adopted, as well as the increased demand on Council services and infrastructure.</p>
12	<p><b>SUBMISSION POINTS Tourism Noosa should fund its own promotion. Council read should fund infrastructure costs</b></p>
13	<p><b>Tourism Levy - should not be used for promoting Noosa. Use to establish cap on tourist numbers. Constant growth will kill Noosa's uniqueness.</b></p> <p>Noosa has too many tourists and over scale events which is leading to a decline in the quality of the environment and decline in amenity to local residents, The levy should be used to fund high quality infra structure, environmental protection and free public transport, The levy also needs to fund serious research in to a tourist number cap to ensure Noosa retains its unique environmental qualities and market niche. Overcrowding reduces the resident and tourist experience. Be radical. Rather than say we need big tourist numbers to support businesses like restaurants, time to say we have too many restaurants and limit them, limit STL etc Quality always wins over quantity in the long run.</p>

No.	Contribution
14	<p><b>Shame on you Noosa Council for planning such extravagant rate increases on holiday property investors.</b></p> <p>Shame on you Noosa Council for planning such extravagant rate increases on holiday property investors. My family and I have been investing in and enjoying holidays in Noosa for over 40 years. In late 2019 we invested in a holiday unit (a strata of 8). In our first year 2020, we had almost no visitors due to Covid and we made a significant loss on the property. The Covid pandemic is still seriously impacting Australia and you want to introduce a major rate hike and, significantly above CPI. Shame on you! Why are you gouging the small investment property owners, at this time, who have made a significant contribution and investment in Noosa for over 40 years helping to make it the wonderful Australian iconic tourist destination it is today. Shame on you Noosa Council</p>
15	<p><b>STL whole house rates should be higher than proposed in budget</b></p> <p>Given that whole house STL is a commercial accommodation business, rates should be higher than those proposed in the budget. Perhaps a sliding scale should be imposed so that the very expensive STL bears more of the burden. . Rate on owner occupied room rent is fine. Rates should be set so that all cost to the Council of approval and compliance should be borne by STL owners.</p>
16	<p><b>Fire Levy should be in General rates</b></p> <p>The introduction of a bushfire resilience and response levy is not supported. This is not new Council business and should be funded by a rise in general rates if there is a need to improve or expand services. Levies increase complexity and administration costs and hide rate rises. While recognising this and simplifying some aspects of the rates in other parts of the 2021/2 budget Council is simultaneously adding more complexity by introducing yet another levy.</p>
17	<p><b>Time for an overhaul of tourism marketing for Noosa. The goals should be sustainability and resident amenity</b></p> <p>Council will now be able to make tourism in Noosa more on the terms that suit Shire residents, and should call tenders for tourism marketing services that meet these aims. Tourism Noosa can fund itself through member contributions like other industry bodies.</p>
18	<p><b>Traffic Risk Mitigation for the Hinterland</b></p> <p>With the known safety issues the recent expansion of Cordwells Quarry has introduced to the Noosa Hinterland region, I believe it is more important than ever to be allocating appropriate funding to the affected towns (including Kin Kin, Pomona and Cooran) to mitigate the increased traffic concerns and community safety concerns resulting from truck convoys travelling through these small towns. Already these towns are severely underfunded, with basic traffic management systems lacking, including enough pedestrian crossings, footpaths, school traffic management, carparking, patrolling etc. So adding increased quarry operations on top of a lack of traffic management is a recipe for disaster. Pomona is in need of multiple pedestrian crossings (Hill St at the train station, School St and Station St T-intersection, Reserve St near railway crossing and IGA, Factory St near railway crossing and T-intersection). Also footpaths are required on Factory Street near the railway crossing, School St, Pine St, the bottom of Hill St near the railway station and new bustop (the footpath runs out). The Pomona State Primary School has multiple issues with school traffic overflow into Pine St creating long parallel lines of cars parked illegally on grassed verges, restricting walking access to pedestrians and restricting road width, often to less than 3 metres (impeding emergency vehicle access to the street). This street is also lacking any pedestrian footpaths, designated street parking or street guttering. In combination, this creates a severe safety concern for students, parents, residents and drivers alike, especially with so many cars using the street for carparking. The Pomona State Primary school is expanding at a rapid rate, with a recent enrollment management plan needing to be introduced due to this growth. If these safety and traffic management concerns are not attended to asap, these streets and areas surrounding the school will only become more congested and increase the likelihood of a serious accident occurring.</p>

No.	Contribution
19	<p><b>The DRAFT 10 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM does not appear to contain funding for the expansion, renewal or upgrade of the Noosa Botanic Gardens.</b></p> <p>In 2017, Noosa Council conducted extensive community consultation on the Noosa Botanic Gardens Master Plan, with 147 surveys completed and numerous stakeholders interviewed. At the time, Council announced that the plan would outline the vision for the Gardens for the next five years. Four years later, does a Master Plan (or even a Vision Statement) exist? Over the next ten years, \$4,582,000 will be spent on the Cooroy Hinterland Playground and a further \$10 million on 19 other parks and playgrounds, but it looks like our beautiful Botanic Gardens misses out again.</p>
20	<p><b>21/22 Draft Budget</b></p> <p>For too long Tourism Noosa has been dependent on rate payers to fund the running of their organisation. The levy needs to be phased out. I understand that Byron Shire has no such organisation and they have no trouble attracting tourists. Rate payers of Noosa Shire would like to see that money spent on roads and other infrastructure in the hinterland.</p>
21	<p><b>Short stay letting</b></p> <p>Increase the cost of whole house short stay letting to deter whole houses from being removed from the rental market. The whole cost to rate payers should be covered by the fees.</p>
22	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>The Noosa Botanical Gardens need extra help re maintenance of the garden beds. I hope that this is covered in the 20/21 budget.</p>

*\*Idea submission based on the standard template wording promoted by Tourism Noosa through its marketing database on 2 June and 4 June 2021.*

## ATTACHMENT 2

## Summary of Email Submissions

Submission Topic	Detail
<p>Capital Program</p> <p>(1 submission received – note previously submitted and reported to Special Meeting on 23 April 2021)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b></p> <p>As an interested community member, rate payer and Treasurer of the Kin Kin Community Group Inc. I recently reviewed the 'draft' Noosa Council 10 year Capital Works Program with anticipation and too gain an understanding of what Council may had considered as important capital works projects to improve our community infrastructure in Kin Kin over the next decade.</p> <p>Other than rural road maintenance and the replacement of Wahpunga Lane bridge (which was in the pipeline for some years), there is no 'other' programmed capital works for Kin Kin ie, skatepark expansion, streetscaping, footpaths, improvements. It is very disappointing that Council have not embarked on a relationship with the Kin Kin Community to gain an understanding or listen to what 'we' suggest would be promising projects for our town moving into the future. The KKCG Inc. expressed an interest with Council to be involved in Strategic Planning for Kin Kin (which we were told we had missed out' and have communicated through various liaison, emails and discussions with Council over a period of time, which all but seem to have been ignored. It has been over 15 years since we received our first roundabout in Main Street and over a decade since KKCG Inc. instigated the request and led community consultation for our skatepark on the oval. Other than these two works, there is little that has been provided for our community.</p> <p>Well, to say the least, the proposed (or lack of) capital works projects reflects broadly on the relationship that Noosa Council lacks with our community. The KKCG Inc. has worked tirelessly to express (with many levels of Council; Councillors, Property Officers and Administration) our community need for the Kin Kin Sportsground Community Centre to be made available to the community to support the wellbeing, cultural, sporting, social aspects and facilities that it once did, since it has been closed by council by a Public Health Order on 18 September 2019. Numerous engagements, meetings with council about this issue has provided little to NO support, understanding or acknowledgement of our community needs. We have been asking for answers for over 18 months, 'a way forward' with no resolve. On Friday 9 April 2021, a resident of Kin Kin posted the question on social media to the Mayor 'asking why the community house has been closed for so long and why the water supply was turned off instead of putting filters on taps', that same afternoon the Major was able to respond with 'It has been closed because of a bat infestation and money has been allocated by our property department in this year's budget to clean up the mess left by the bats and as well as the addition of a new water supply system'. How is it that we have been waiting for answers for some time and as soon as the question is posted on social media, an answer is provided by the Major.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that this issue is 'finally' moving forward, why isn't the proposed funding for 'Expansion Upgrade to Oval Facilities and Amenities' programmed for delivery in the 2027 / 2028 be given immediate priority so that sportsground buildings works can be undertaken at the same time so that the facilities are adequate for our community and not just a 'fix up job' proposed this year</p> <p>I urgently request that Council reassess their priorities for Kin Kin capital works and create a relationship with the community, an opportunity to provide input, suggestions and ambitions for our town. Simply, to wait another 10 years is not fair, nor responsible of Council. What can Council provide to enhance the town for our children, elderly and visitors?. Why is funding for projects to the north of the shire, non existent.</p> <p>We deserve an explanation and further consideration prior to Council finalising the capital works for next 10 years.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
<p>Climate Emergency / Climate Change preparedness</p> <p>(4 submissions received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> I am largely supportive of Council's draft Budget but I would like more funds allocated to addressing the issue of climate change and the threat this poses to our communities and our life styles. Council's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration needs to be more effectively promoted and specific actions identified to address potential impacts. I support the application of a special levy, if necessary, or a small increase the rates.</p> <p><b>Submission 2:</b> While I think the draft budget is generally reasonable, I would like to see additional funding to address Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency. We currently face a global climate and ecological emergency that is increasing in severity with each passing day as the impacts of global warming increase in both frequency and severity. Ultimately, we will see global warming creating complex emergencies that result in food shortages, the failure of nation states, and resulting extreme responses by government. Council needs to build on what they have already decided and step up to the mark with regards to the Declaration.</p> <p><b>Submission 3:</b> In response to the CHAP draft &amp; the request for Budget feedback I write requesting more consideration be given to the funding of the ongoing management &amp; rehabilitation of our coastal dunes &amp; dunal bushland. Whilst I agree in the Draft's support for the revegetative approach to build resilience at the beachfront, I believe that in an era of increasing climate change &amp; impacts on the frontal dunes at the forefront of sea level rises will need additional funding to reach the resilient standards the science tells us we will depend.</p> <p><b>Submission 4:</b> Please find attached a copy of the email I sent early in April seeking funds to implement the recommendations made in the CHAP and our additional recommendation plus the PBCAI Submission on the Coastal Adaptation Plan and an article in the Financial Review : Australian insurers say 'act now' on climate change.</p> <p>This upcoming budget represents the perfect opportunity for Noosa Council to demonstrate commitment to dealing with at least some of the impact of climate change, as well as demonstrating support for the bush care groups</p> <p>We would hope to see the inclusion and funding of these recommendations in the upcoming Budget.</p>
<p>General Rate</p> <p>(1 submission received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> I realise that the cost of providing goods and services is going up however this does not mean that the rates have to be increased even if it is below or equal to the c.p.i. The increase in cpi is partly caused by higher charges from all level of government .</p> <p>Better financial management, improvement in tendering and purchasing practices , cost saving investigations are some of the areas where money can be saved by the council . For instance i am always amazed at the cost of building a round-about when you compare this to the cost of building a house . Something is wrong here !!!!!</p> <p>Increases above the cpi are unacceptable , such as heritage levy , transport levy and the environmental levy . If one lives outside the residential areas these items have no benefit to the land owners.</p> <p>Peoples whom are on the old age pension ( like us ) can not cope with all the cost increases . The latest pension rate has been put up to \$ 718.10 per week for a couple . This augmentation of \$ 6.30 ( 0.9 % ) per week does not cover the real inflation cost of living .</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>One example is my car insurance is up \$71 or 15% . Other increasing costs such as private health insurance , petrol price and many others are way above our pensions increase .</p> <p>The council should ensure that the pensioners will not have their living standard lowered , this council should increase the rate discount given to the elderly .</p>
<p>Heritage Levy  (1 submission received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> Noosa Council took appropriate action to reduce the impost of levies on ratepayers during the COVID-19 pandemic and is on the right track to lift those levies back up in 2021-22. In particular, I note that, having being lowered to \$5 last year, the Heritage Levy will rise to \$8.50 in the draft budget to be adopted at the end of the month.</p> <p>In this submission, I propose that this particular levy be increased even further, back to \$10 per property per annum.</p> <p>It is disappointing that the Heritage Levy is of little assistance to the Noosa Shire Museum and there is no hypothecation of levy monies to that institution. It is my contention that the extra \$1.50 on the levy would not be felt by most ratepayers. Directing that money to the museum would be of great assistance – especially if the additional money raised was used by Noosa Council to engage consultants to consider the future location of the building, while retaining this important institution in Pomona.</p> <p>Such action would mirror the steps the council is taking to consider the future scope and location of the Noosa Regional Gallery.</p> <p>Such ‘visioning’ by the existing Cooroora Historical Society is not possible currently. Obviously, the existing committee would need to be consulted in any such process, but great strides could be made to consider a possible future site for the museum relative to The Majestic Theatre and the Old Railway Station Gallery to form a ‘cultural precinct’ at Pomona, consistent with the objectives of the Noosa Cultural Plan 2019-23.</p> <p>There are people at Pomona who would provide their support for the museum, and revitalise its management, if Noosa Council were able to provide through a consultants’ report details of where the museum could be relocated. The existence of such a report - funded by an extra \$1.50 on top of the \$8.50 proposed Heritage Levy - could also be used to source state and federal funding for a purpose-built facility on the new site, complete with additional gallery space, refurbished and better displays telling the shire’s history, humidity control and better storage and research spaces; and prominence in relation to the other arts and cultural institutions in the town. Please note that I am not suggesting that the \$1.50 extra paid by each ratepayer be consolidated and provided to the Cooroora Historical Society as a grant, but retained by the council and used for the purpose stated, in consultation’ with the Noosa Shire Museum management committee.</p>
<p>Multiple Issues  (5 submissions received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft budget. My comments are as below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The introduction of a bushfire resilience and response levy is not supported. This is not new Council business and should be funded by a rise in general rates if there is a need to improve or expand services. Otherwise the community needs to know just exactly what is this levy paying for over and above the existing fire and response services and budget? Levies increase complexity and administration costs and hide rate rises. While recognising this and simplifying some aspects of the rates in other parts of the 2021/2 budget Council is simultaneously adding more complexity by introducing yet another levy.</li> <li>2. The introduction of new rating categories for transitory accommodation (short stay) properties is supported, but the rise is not commensurate with the nature of the</li> </ol>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>properties and should be more. They are a business and should be paying commercial rates. The rise should be commensurate with the costs Council will incur when the new local law is adopted, as well as the increased demand on Council services and infrastructure.</p> <p>3. Council's intentions regarding tourism budget are unclear in the material provided online, which raises more questions rather than providing information.</p> <p>The current arrangements for the Tourism Levy certainly need review, and it is hoped that the agreement with Tourism Noosa will be significantly changed when it comes up for review. Transferring these levy funds to a self- interested, industry organisation that has no transparency or responsibility to the community and no Council input might have been appropriate in a time when tourism in Noosa was struggling to gain its footing, but inappropriate in 2021/22 when little promotion is necessary, when the tourism industry is placing a massive burden on liveability and services and infrastructure in the shire, and where changes in direction in promotion might have adverse impacts on Council and community.</p> <p>Council's 'core business' in relation to tourism is its role as destination manager, and this uses a very significant portion of its resources in the form of infrastructure and maintenance costs, which are primarily paid for by non-tourism ratepayers who are increasingly affected adversely by the expansion of tourism. The tourism levy and the tourism industry should contribute more to that purpose than ordinary ratepayers. Applying the levy funds to more than just granting them to an opaque organisation for tourism promotion would be a beginning.</p> <p>The notion that tourism 'promotion' is core Council business is not supported. The 'levy' or a differential rate for tourism businesses needs to remain as a recognition of the burden tourism places on services and infrastructure for the Council as destination manager, but promotion should be the realm of a non-Council tourism organisation self-funded from membership fees.</p> <p><b>Submission 2:</b> Thank you for the opportunity to provide final comment on the draft Noosa Council Budget documents. These are as follows:</p> <p>1. Funds to deliver emissions reductions as committed to by Council policy.</p> <p>The 2019 Noosa Environment Strategy set as a target: "Noosa Council operations and service activities, and the Noosa community as a whole, will reach zero net emissions by 2026." In addition, Council has recently concluded its consultation on the Climate Change Response Plan (CCRP). We note that the draft Budget overview states that \$400 000 is to be committed for the continuation of the Zero Emissions Noosa Strategy. However, there is no specific reference in the draft Budget to funding either the Environment Strategy target, or the CCRP. If Council is genuine about committing to the goals identified, there should be specific reference in the Budget documents to funding these objectives, as has been done for the Cycling and Walking Strategy and Noosa River management initiatives. Please see (2) and (3) below for proposals for specific initiatives to deliver on these commitments.</p> <p>2. Proposal for Business Energy Transition Officer</p> <p>We note that Council has created positions of Community Development Officer and Heritage Officer. We respectfully submit that an equally important priority should be the creation of a Business Energy Transition Officer to work with local small business for economic development and environmental benefits. In this regard, we note that Theme 3 in the CCRP states (p. 31): 3.1 Through targeted initiatives, create an environment that supports business development, innovation and investment shift to clean, green low emission industries and technology</p>



Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>3.2 Utilise business support tools to work with industry, business associations and government agencies to facilitate emissions reduction and environmental sustainability for local businesses Our estimates are that business exports \$27M per year in grid electricity costs. If a significant proportion of these costs were avoided through energy efficiency and renewable energy, these funds could then be reinvested in the business. Such investment would also lead to growth in the environmental industries sector as prioritised in the Local Economic Plan. ZEN has developed considerable research data with respect to the economic benefits to be derived by a business investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy. This data is derived from actual case studies in the Noosaville industrial estate and beyond</p> <p>In many cases overall payback period is little more than 3 years and businesses can then continue to reap the rewards of their initial investment. If Noosa Council is serious about emission reduction and economic development, it must work with businesses to keep this revenue in the shire.</p> <p>However, we also know that there are real barriers for small business in accessing these benefits. To overcome these barriers, we are proposing the creation of a Business Energy Transition Officer, either employed directly by Council or funding to ZEN to implement this proposal, based on an approved Business Plan.</p> <p>This position would work closely with local business (and possibly strata) to assist with assessment of current energy usage, opportunities for energy efficiency, costs and benefits of renewable energy such as rooftop solar, and financing options. For small business, investigation of this nature invariably goes in the too hard basket due to lack of time to devote to researching and implementing solar, including accessing/assessing credible information, (including regulation); challenges of installing solar in multi-metered businesses; difficulty in negotiating through approvals process (with landlord, body corporate, board, management). Having a Business Energy Transition Officer is a real and practical way in which Council could work with its small business sector to deliver real economic and environmental benefits.</p> <p>A similar award-winning initiative was implemented by Waverley Council to work with strata apartments. Round one of the free program had helped 10 residential strata buildings reduce their annual carbon emissions by 651 tonnes as well as reduce running costs in each building by an average of \$13,000 each year. We are confident similar benefits could be available to Noosa businesses through the employment of a Business Energy Transition Officer.</p> <p>3. Pre-feasibility Study into Costs and Benefits of Community Batteries</p> <p>We propose that Noosa Council and ZEN partner in a pre-feasibility study on the costs and benefits of one or more community batteries within the shire. There are several trials and pilots now in operation across Australia, and it is important that our businesses and households not be locked out from the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy as emerging grid stability problems lead to unacceptable policy proposals.</p> <p>It is now being recognised across Australia that the extraordinary growth of rooftop solar is leading to emerging stability problems for a distribution network designed for one-way, not two-way electricity flows. ZEN is already aware of Noosa businesses who are unable to export solar due to distribution system inadequacies. This problem will grow, both for business and households, with various response strategies being raised, such as the recent proposal for an export charge ('solar tax').</p> <p>However, it is clearly important not to disincentivise investment in renewable energy, and an important strategy emerging is to grow capacity for energy storage, to be used at times of peak demand not able to be met by wind or solar. While many will have heard of the South Australian 'big battery', a middle way solution of community batteries is now emerging, with several initiatives now in place and operational.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>We believe it is critical for Noosa Council to show leadership on this issue on behalf of its businesses and households. Once a pre-feasibility study has been completed, this would enable the development of an implementation coalition which could include Regional Development Australia, Energex, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation and our business and community associations.</p> <p>Noosa would then be in a strong position to seek funding from external sources including ARENA or the Federal Government Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund. Rounds One and Two have already closed, so it is important that Noosa position itself for the next round.</p> <p>4. Bushfire Resilience and Response Levy or Climate Response Levy?</p> <p>We note the proposal to introduce a Bushfire Resilience and Response Levy. Clearly climate change is leading to increased and more intensive bushfire risks and it is appropriate to identify a strategy and funding source to do this. However, we would submit that just identifying bushfire risk is a piecemeal approach to the overall climate change risks faced by our community, which have been documented in both the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan and the Climate Change Response Plan. Bushfire is just one of the risks posed to our community from climate change. Therefore we believe that either a separate Climate Response levy should be introduced to fund Council's identified goals and targets, or that the Bushfire Resilience and Response Levy becomes a subset of the overarching Climate Response Levy.</p> <p>5. Failure to include Operational Plan in public documents</p> <p>This is a significant omission. The Operational Plan is a key component of the suite of Budget documents, and is where the community can assess Council progress on non-capital commitments in a range of Council policy documents, such as the Climate Change Response Plan. In addition, while \$460 000 has been allocated for Economic Development, there is no detail on funds available for economic development initiatives, such as our proposed Business Energy Transition Officer (see 2 above). We are assuming that non-tourism businesses which previously contributed to the Tourism and Economic Development Levy will now be rated at a higher rate (with the former levy amount bundled into this) but again have no information on how those additional rate funds are to be invested.</p> <p>6. Deletion of Tourism and Economic Development Levy</p> <p>This is a huge change in Council policy but almost seems an afterthought. There is a very significant difference between funds raised by a levy and funds raised through general revenue. Funds raised by a levy must be used for the specified purpose. Funds raised through rates and going to general revenue have no such protection and can be used for any purpose, despite assurances that may be given.</p> <p>The proposal to bundle the levy costs in with the general rate means that there is no clear delineation of funds committed for tourism or economic development. The Tourism and Economic Development Levy is an amazing success story and has over two decades delivered extraordinary runs on the board for the Noosa tourism industry and its employees. The casual deletion of this levy seems unbelievable especially in an era of COVID-19 uncertainty.</p> <p><b>Submission 3:</b></p> <p>Two issues in the Noosa Council budget give us some optimism that Council may be at last recognising existential threats to Noosa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the provision to require owners of properties being let for Short Stay Accommodation to be levied; and</li> <li>- reduced funding for Tourism Noosa.</li> </ul>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>Short Term Accommodation costs: No cross subsidy</p> <p>Council estimates there are 5000 dwellings available for Short Term Accommodation. From published data it would seem that about 1000 of these are paying Council's Economic Development and Tourism Levy. Extrapolating from available data suggests Council is foregoing at least \$3m in revenue because of this levy collection failure. Continuation of a Council grant to Tourism Noosa implies a cross-subsidy from property owners not benefitting from STA income to those that are. This is unfair.</p> <p>So it is with satisfaction that we note council's intention to require owners of properties available for STA to be levied - presumably to address this shortfall and to recover other additional administration and garbage collection costs these properties are incurring. While satisfied with the principle you are proposing to address, we are not satisfied with the proposed quantum. Using rates advertised on Air BnB for a Mitti St property suggests the levy you are proposing amounts to about one night's accommodation/year - a paltry cost against the revenue being generated by this commercial venture.</p> <p>We want the council to achieve full recovery of STA administration and regulation costs from the owners of the dwellings being used for STA. There should be no cross-subsidy from the rest of Noosa's residents.</p> <p>To allow STA growth to continue at its present rate will produce fundamental changes to Noosa, converting it from a thriving permanent community to a hollowed out tourist destination for ort term renters. An increase in costs has the opportunity of causing Investors to adjust their ambitions in this regard.</p> <p>Tourism Noosa</p> <p>We applaud the proposed reduction to Tourism Noosa's annual Council grant, and encourage further and deeper reviews of rate-payer support for it. Tourism Noosa, and other business lobby groups, promote the misleading notion that Noosa is exclusively dependent on tourism.</p> <p>Revenue: According to the National Institute for Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) Noosa's total tourism revenue is declining.</p> <p>Value added: Looked at another way, tourism's value-added contribution to the Noosa economy, although significant at \$165.1m, ranked 6th. The health sector delivered the greatest value-added contribution with growth exceeding 40%.</p> <p>Statistics show that Noosa Council's economic diversification plans are working. While tourism has 'flat lined' pre-Covid, the Noosa economy outperformed the State and SE Qld on key economic indicators over the previous five years</p> <p>Over the past decade 'natural growth' in tourism has been strong with a 58% increase in day trippers. This will continue regardless of promotional spend, and probably accelerate. Tourism Noosa's operating budget is about \$3.3m; that is about \$60/Noosa resident/year. The Gold Coast spends less than half that, and the Sunshine Coast about a quarter. Tourism results in Noosa are mixed with 27% growth in domestic tourist numbers over the five years to 2018, but a 3% decline in international visitor numbers. Yield is down. Visitors appear to have tightened their wallets and average spend per visitor has fallen.</p> <p>To cut funding for Tourism Noosa is a pragmatic response. Not only does it recognise the reduced contribution of tourism to GRP, but it also recognises the issues of traffic congestion that must be addressed before more tourists (particularly day trippers) are drawn to this area.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p><b>Submission 4</b></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft budget. My comments are as below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The introduction of a bushfire resilience and response levy is not supported. This is not new Council business and should be funded by a rise in general rates if there is a need to improve or expand services. Otherwise the community needs to know just exactly what is this levy paying for over and above the existing fire and response services and budget? Levies increase complexity and administration costs and hide rate rises. While recognising this and simplifying some aspects of the rates in other parts of the 2021/2 budget Council is simultaneously adding more complexity by introducing yet another levy.</li> <li>2. The introduction of new rating categories for transitory accommodation (short stay) properties is supported, but the rise is not commensurate with the nature of the properties and should be more. They are a business and should be paying commercial rates. The rise should be commensurate with the costs Council will incur when the new local law is adopted, as well as the increased demand on Council services and infrastructure.</li> <li>3. Council's intentions regarding tourism budget are unclear in the material provided online, which raises more questions rather than providing information.</li> </ol> <p>The current arrangements for the Tourism Levy certainly need review, and it is hoped that the agreement with Tourism Noosa will be significantly changed when it comes up for review. Transferring these levy funds to a self- interested, industry organisation that has no transparency or responsibility to the community and no Council input might have been appropriate in a time when tourism in Noosa was struggling to gain its footing, but inappropriate in 2021/22 when little promotion is necessary, when the tourism industry is placing a massive burden on liveability and services and infrastructure in the shire, and where changes in direction in promotion might have adverse impacts on Council and community.</p> <p>Council's 'core business' in relation to tourism is its role as destination manager, and this uses a very significant portion of its resources in the form of infrastructure and maintenance costs, which are primarily paid for by non-tourism ratepayers who are increasingly affected adversely by the expansion of tourism. The tourism levy and the tourism industry should contribute more to that purpose than ordinary ratepayers. Applying the levy funds to more than just granting them to an opaque organisation for tourism promotion would be a beginning.</p> <p>The notion that tourism 'promotion' is core Council business is not supported. The 'levy' or a differential rate for tourism businesses needs to remain as a recognition of the burden tourism places on services and infrastructure for the Council as destination manager, but promotion should be the realm of a non-Council tourism organisation self-funded from membership fees.</p> <p><b>Submission 5</b></p> <p><i>RE: Noosa Council Draft Budget 2021-22 Draft Budget information sheet 3 - Proposed changes to General Rates and Levies, and section 2 under Levies:</i></p> <p>NSRRA supports this proposal but has some concerns. NSRRA concerns relate to: 'Tourism promotion and economic development activities have evolved into core Council business. As such it is now considered that tourism and economic development activities should be funded by general rates (applied only to those properties who are currently paying the levy) rather than through the continuation of a special levy.'</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>NSC Core Business is, or should be, ' Protection of the Noosa Biosphere and it's Assets both natural and man-made as well as our lifestyle and amenity'. NSRRA objects to Council's determination that tourism promotion and economic development is "core Council business" and should be funded from "general rates" whether they be charged just to commercial businesses or otherwise while directed to the current business.</p> <p>We agree that Council should scrap the Tourism Levy as it could be self funded. There are important things for Council to spend rates revenue on. One such alternate is to fund the 'not free' holiday buses from tourism funds.</p> <p>It seems questionable that Council on one hand spends ratepayer funds dealing with the numerous problems associated with over-tourism, and on the other hand want to fund the promotion of more tourism! Council's intent needs to be explained. It appears non-transparent.</p> <p>NSRRA strongly object to the idea general rates will rise to pay for an in house Council tourism promotion body. We also have concerns about a new Levy for "Fire Management" which maybe an ongoing expense covered by General Rates.</p>
<p>Short Stay/ Transitory Accommodation Rating Category</p> <p>(17 submissions received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> I strongly object to the proposal to tax short stay rentals on top of the tourist levy (which should not be included in general revenue). Rather than put more strain on council resources short stay rentals do not occupy premises 100% of the year nor do the guests use many council facilities which permanent lessees or owners do. If council wishes to decrease tourism and jobs in Noosa it is going the right way about it. Councillors in favour of this proposal should think again.</p> <p><b>Submission 2:</b> We are writing to submit our support for Noosa Council to increase rates for all STA properties as they are running as a business and should face the same reporting obligations as traditional accommodation providers.</p> <p><b>Submission 3:</b> As a property owner in Noosa, I wish to strongly object to the proposed increase in rates to be applied to holiday rental properties I am not objecting to an increase but a 16% increase is excessive and should be re-evaluated. Please reconsider your proposal.</p> <p><b>Submission 4:</b> As a property owner in the Noosa Council I am writing in respect of the current proposal to create a new rates category which will apply specifically to holiday rental properties. I am struggling to find any basis or justification as to why Holiday let properties should be singled out or targeted in this way. As a property owner we are reliant on the income we receive from this property and have, like many others, suffered a reduction in income over the last 16 months while the pandemic has persisted and continues to persist.</p> <p>Noosa as a community and a region continues to flourish and do well and I am sure this is due in no small part to the availability of holiday let properties to visitors who are happy to visit and spend their money in the region. The reliance on the news region for tourism cannot be underestimated and this decision seems extraordinary in the light of recent conditions.</p> <p>A proposed increase in excess of 15% seems extraordinary. I understand on current forecasts under the proposed budget the increase for the new rates category would be in excess of 15% which on any view seems very difficult to justify. Please can you provide your reasons as to how you can justify such a hefty increase in any environment let alone in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. This decision seems oblivious to current conditions and disregards The impact suffered by many property owners.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>It goes without saying that the consumer price index over the 12 months to March 2021 during that quarter rows by 1.1% what you are proposing is significantly in excess of this. Please can you provide your justification for such an increase?</p> <p>It is difficult to understand the basis or justification for such an increase particularly when Holiday left properties which are periodically occupied on any of you must use less council infrastructure than those that our owner occupied full-time</p> <p>In addition it is our experience that holiday property guests generally are relatively small uses of council services and the significant economic benefit bought to the region by visitors cannot be underestimated and surely must underpinned one of the reasons why Noosa has become such a popular, dynamic and favoured destination for people from all over Australia.</p> <p>In addition we have like many other sectors in the community suffered in relation to Covid and ongoing border restrictions that have caused financial hardship to the tourism sector and unsurprisingly Noosa has not been spared from this problem. Indeed it's ongoing at the moment as we have had a number of cancellations for rentals for people from Melbourne so there has been a significant loss of income over the last 15 months also that the pandemic has persisted.</p> <p>In these conditions it's difficult to justify any kind of increase let alone one of the magnitude of what is being proposed here. Why are you penalising holiday let property owners when they have already suffered income loss and by virtue of being property owners provide significant economic benefit to the Noosa region.</p> <p>I am at a loss to understand the basis of a justification for such an extraordinary increase way beyond the CPI and at a time when many property owners are reliant on income to support families during a time when the pandemic affects still have a significant impact across the community</p> <p>Could you please reconsider this decision on any view it's difficult to find justification for such an extraordinary increase. Finally could you please answer the questions posed above?</p> <p><b>Submission 5:</b> I think the change to rates for STL properties is necessary as Tourism is becoming all consuming in Noosa and strangling the local community and residents. Currently it's inequitable that residents carry the costs for promoting tourism ( Noosa does not require any more advertising) as well as the added pressure on infrastructure by the tourists and the inconvenience of STL in residential areas. I am hopeful that in the future the home businesses will be treated more fairly and compete on a level playing field with hotels, resorts and unit blocks.</p> <p><b>Submission 6:</b> We want to emphatically state our opposition to the proposed rate changes proposed by Noosa Council. Of particular concern is the singling out of completely unfair and disproportionate increases to any resident who participates in providing any home hosted accommodation – ie. renting out a room in their home. Putting in place a separate PPR with home hosted short term stay categorisation is discriminatory in the extreme. There is no extra charge for PPR who also have a home based business (under which home hosted currently resides and should remain) or for PPR who have boarders or lodgers stay. There is also no limit or additional charge on the number of family members or other people who can stay in a residence. However for residents who rent out a room for 1 or 2 short term guests they are accused of using excessive additional council resources and infrastructure. This is pure fiction. I could have several additional family members or paying tenants staying in my home with me and there is no additional charge levied but for us 2 residents with 1 to 2 guests in our home for just some of the time, we are now supposed to believe we are extraordinary users of council resources.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>By having a rate differential from .003266 (the new proposed rate for PPR) to .005855 for the new classification of PPR plus home hosted, residents with home hosted accommodation are being penalised a whopping 81.9% premium in rates. For us personally this means a charge of \$5048.55 a year for the privilege of renting one room in our home, while we reside there. This is frankly unbelievable. Where is the justification for this 82% penalty?</p> <p>Where is the issue for the community from residents renting out a room in their own home? There are no noise issues, no additional council resources. Our guests are either a single, two friends or a couple who eat out many times during their stay, book tours and activities and shop at Noosa's supermarkets and boutiques. We even provide them with bikes to use so they do not contribute to traffic congestion. We do not require additional garbage services and we recycle their waste as we do ours. We have solar hot water and solar electricity to minimise greenhouse gases.</p> <p>We have complained to Noosa Council in the past regarding the excessive tourism levy we pay for our property – a hefty \$1372 a year, for renting one room. (We believe that rate should be capped for home hosted at a maximum of \$500 per year). But even including the elimination of that levy in the proposed rate change, under the draft changes we will need to find an extra \$2394.65 per year, which represents a 31.3% overall increase in rates, not including the new bushfire levy. This while you are telling residents they will only get a 2% increase on average. This also ignores the proposed development application fee, pool and smoke detector inspections and annual fees proposed by Council for home hosted PPR in the recent S/T proposals.</p> <p>This additional cost cannot be absorbed in higher prices. There is a very definite ceiling as to how much guests can and will be prepared to pay for a room in someone else's home. There is no objective rationale for creating a category for home hosted PPR with different rates than for all other PPR ratepayers. This draft classification change needs to be removed. It is unfair, disproportionate and discriminatory. A huge kick in the guts for residents who are just trying to earn a small additional income from their most valuable asset, without being forced to sell their home and leave the area. Please look at the numbers and be honest about the impact and do not make this change.</p> <p><b>Submission 7:</b></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on the proposed Noosa Shire Council's 2021-22 Budget. Our views presented in this letter are consistent with our prior engagement with Council on the policies, regulations and financial settings for short term rental accommodation. For ease of reference, I have attached our submission on the Local Law Amendment (Attachment 1).</p> <p>First and foremost, Stayz is deeply concerned at what appears to be a view formed by Council on a poorly assessed and analysed situation regarding the state of tourism in Noosa. At a time when an industry on which the local economy is so dependent is just getting back on its feet after COVID, Noosa Council has decided to make the operating environment for those that drive the industry even more difficult. Such a move means everyone misses out – the mum and dad property owners who provide accommodation to tourists who in turn support local business, local jobs and a more prosperous economy. Tourist numbers also support an expanded goods and services offering to permanent residents in the area. Without tourists, many businesses would not survive. Stayz appreciates that Council wants to address the issue of funding the best possible amenity for its community and those that visit, however, we see little evidence to support the ratings and tourism levy changes proposed for the 2021-22 Budget. And we are even more concerned that the budget changes appear to have conflated with the other changes in progress related to the Noosa Plan and the Local Law Amendments.</p> <p>In particular we draw attention to what appears to be a serious logic flaw in increasing the rates for providers of short term rentals on the basis that those who stay in this accommodation use council facilities and amenities. The fact is that the many</p>

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	<p>properties – hosted and unhosted – that participate in the industry have people staying at the property for less time than if the property was a principal place of residence (PPR). So it follows that council facilities and amenities are being used less in association with these properties rather than more. A different way to look at this is if every STRA property become a PPR, what approach would Council take to balance its budget and more importantly create a local economy that could support the same number of businesses and jobs that are currently reliant on tourists. This is an issue that must be reconciled before any further changes are made.</p> <p>The current ad hoc and uncoordinated approach to STRA by Noosa Council is not part of an overall plan and has no evidence-base supporting it. We ask again that the Noosa Council work with the State Government on a State wide plan to manage STRA, or at a minimum hold off making changes to local policies, regulations and rates/levies until the State Government Industry Reference Group process has run its course.</p> <p>Stayz reiterates that it is a strong supporter of putting in place the right policies, regulations and funding base for STRA. We have demonstrated this commitment in our partnerships with State Governments and Councils around Australia. We seek a commitment from Noosa Council to work with us to co-design the settings that address the issues at the heart of Councils concern as well as allow the STRA industry to continue its valuable contribution to the local economy. We are confident from our experience across the globe that there is a better way than what the Noosa Council is proposing.</p> <p>We hope to hear from you to set up a meeting to discuss the points raised in this letter and our previous engagements in more detail.</p> <p><b>Submission 8:</b> Shame on you Noosa Council for planning such extravagant rate increases on holiday property investors. My family and I have been investing in and enjoying holidays in Noosa for over 40 years. In late 2019 we invested in a holiday unit ( a strata of 8). In our first year 2020, we had almost no visitors due to Covid and we made a significant loss on the property. And now you want to introduce a major rate hike and significantly above CPI. Shame on you! Why are you gouging the small investment property owners who have made a significant contribution and investment in Noosa for over 40 years helping to make it the wonderful Australian iconic tourist destination it is today. Shame on you Noosa Council</p> <p><b>Submission 9:</b> Why penalise the properties that bring tourists to Noosa do you want to tax us more?</p> <p><b>Submission 10:</b> We own a 2 bedroom holiday let and are retired. We use our unit about 3 to 4 months a year , and let it out via a local agent for the remaining 7 to 8 months , where the occupancy is around 70% . I understand the council intends to increase the rates on short term rentals by 16% in 2021/2022. Like many people who own units in our block we are not rich and bought our unit many years ago. As retired people we net about \$10,000 a year from our apartment after expenses and this helps fund our retirement. We and our guests have never used many of the councils facilities eg library, swimming centre, childrens playgrounds etc. We our our guests spend money in local shops and contribute to local businesses.</p> <p>The council says "short term residents" need to pay their fair share , I object to this on a number of grounds:  - Most of the facilities the council spends money on are not used by short term rental clients  - Our unit is completely vacant 2 to 3 months a year - adding no cost to the council.  - The can find no reasoning or rational behind this comment and given the limited use of council assets and the unit being vacant I would assume we already pay "more than our fair share"</p>



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	<p>The council needs to be FAIR to all ratepayers that is all I ask. In the end if the costs of having a short term rental in Noosa continue to increase we will cease to rent it out , I do not think anyone wins here. Less money spent in the Noosa community, if 20% of short term rentals disappear due to all the changes - jobs and income will be lost.</p> <p><b>Submission 11:</b> I strongly object to the proposed changes to the tourism levy. If I choose to holiday let my home for 2 weeks a year there will be no greater load on council resources. It is ridiculous that my rates will increase as a result. Raising rates for council coffers will not necessarily go to tourism ventures. The council has no right to deter me from letting my home. This is just another new measure for council to limit holiday letting and deterring Noosa tourism.</p> <p><b>Submission 12:</b> We strongly oppose the Noosa Council proposed new rates category that will apply to holiday rental properties in addition to the substantial increase in the General Rates. A total 16.0% increase!! It is exorbitant!! What does it achieve or its purpose - except as a blatant exercise in greediness for more income to the council. In comparison the CPI over the last 12 months rose only 1.1%. In over 20 years of letting part of our home, on a casual basis, we have never experienced any tenant utilising Council services.</p> <p>Our expenses have nearly doubled ( we are now paying cleaners upwards of \$40 per hour -and sometimes \$60 per hour.) Before legislation is passed on this matter all affected parties should be provided with a detailed, balanced and objective statement of understanding by the Noosa Council. We urge you to delay a final decision on the above proposal and provide this letter to all councillors . A satisfactory compromise has to be reached.</p> <p>We would appreciate acknowledgement of this Submission. (Incidentally, our previous correspondence to the Noosa Council regarding the proposed Short stay Letting has not been answered as we requested- implying that the Council chooses to ignore our response. )</p> <p><b>Submission 13:</b> I would like to pass on the following objections to the proposed increases in rates for "holiday let" properties by Noosa council. I am of the firm belief that there is no rational argument for this increase and this is just a poor way for council to increase revenues, taking advantage a sector (tourism) that brings so much value to the area. Your significant rate increases proposed for holiday investment properties is out of line with CPI, which rose just 1.1% over the past 12months (to the March 21 quarter) Additionally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday-let properties, which are periodically occupied, tend to use less council infrastructure</li> <li>• Holiday property guests generally do not use Council services</li> <li>• Covid and ongoing border restrictions have caused financial hardship to the STA sector</li> </ul> <p>I hope that your "engagement process" is not just a box-ticking exercise and that you consider these points carefully.</p> <p><b>Submission 14:</b> I write to you to state that we object to your differential rates increase for short term rental properties, we have lived and worked in the Sunshine coast area for many years and would like to point out that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPI over 12 months to the March 2021 quarter only rose 1.1%</li> <li>• Holiday-let properties, which are periodically occupied, tend to use less council infrastructure, and to remain such a great place Noosa needs accommodation during peak periods such as Easter and Christmas</li> <li>• Our holiday property guests generally do not use Council services</li> </ul> <p>I hope you will take this into consideration</p>

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	<p><b>Submission 15:</b> I strongly object to 2021/22 Draft Budget Proposed changes to the General Rates and Levies especially as related to Short Term Accommodation. My objections are based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The CPI over 12 months to the March 2021 quarter rose 1.1%</li> <li>2. Holiday-let properties, which are periodically occupied, tend to use less council infrastructure</li> <li>3. Holiday property guests generally do not use Council services</li> <li>4. Covid and ongoing border restrictions have caused financial hardship to the STA sector</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission 16:</b> As owners of the property at {REDACTED} and in response to the advised Noosa Council draft budget let me say that we strongly object to such massive increase in Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPI over 12 months to the March 2021 quarter rose 1.1% - there is no justification in crate a rate rise of this magnitude</li> <li>• Holiday-let properties, which are periodically occupied, tend to use less council infrastructure</li> <li>• Holiday property guests generally do not use Council services</li> <li>• Covid and ongoing border restrictions have caused financial hardship to the STA sector</li> </ul> <p>Since you requested a response I trust you will consider our objection</p> <p><b>Submission 17</b></p> <p>I object to the outrageous increases of 16% which simply appears to be a money grabbing exercise from an inefficient run council. The issues i would like to raise are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPI over 12 months to the March 2021 quarter rose 1.1%</li> <li>• Holiday-let properties, which are periodically occupied, tend to use less council infrastructure</li> <li>• Holiday property guests generally do not use Council services</li> <li>• Covid and ongoing border restrictions have caused financial hardship to the sector</li> </ul> <p>Please advise on what basis and justification you have for these preposterous increases.</p>
<p>Tourism &amp; Economic Levy (Note a number of submissions received were generally based on standard template wording promoted by Tourism Noosa through its marketing database on 2/6 &amp; 4/6)</p> <p>(64 submissions received)</p>	<p><b>Submission 1:</b> I strongly disagree with the proposed changes to the Tourism Levy for the following reasons: For the last 20 years Tourism Noosa has been successfully promoting our beautiful destination as a top tourist destination. Why now make it core Council business when the Council are not specialists in this area. Tourism Noosa has to be transparent in how they allocate these funds. Will the Council be as transparent? Tourism Noosa offers much support to their members in many ways. Will the Council be able to offer this support? I would like to see the Council present a study over the coming financial year which supports such a significant change by the Council so that the rate payers can make an informed decision on who they feel best supports our Tourism Industry.</p> <p><b>Submission 2:</b> It is with great concern we send this email. We are one of the tourism businesses that have been absolutely smashed by Covid. Although we are still operating a quality eco-tourism experience, we are 80% down on previous years. We have been conducting day tours to Fraser Island from Noosa for the past 33 years. We acknowledge that not much will change to our particular business until such time as our traditional market – international visitors - return to Australia. In the meantime, local tourism needs all the assistance they can get to attract domestic and New Zealanders to the region. It has probably never been more important to have full financial backing.</p>

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	<p>It is not just about the attraction of a destination but what experiences and variety of activities are available to the tourist once they arrive. Tourism Noosa has always been a way of communicating to visitors and prospective visitors what they can do in Noosa. They need to be commended for their achievements and not hampered as this will also further impact on people like us. Noosa is up against some extremely pro-active markets for the Australian tourism dollar for eg. Cairns/Far North Tropics and the Gold Coast which has a very large marketing budget. Therefore, in order to compete, we need as much exposure as we can possibly generate in the market place. Tourism is critical to Noosa to survive and a Tourism Levy is essential to assist with the promotion of our fantastic region.</p> <p><b>Submission 3:</b>                  We write to you as past Board Directors of Tourism Noosa, Chairs of the Marketing and Events Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee. We strongly oppose Noosa Council's draft Budget proposing to change the Tourism and Economic Development Levy. We find the timing and lack of consultation a potential threat to the decades long successful management of our local tourism organisation, often used as a benchmark by other organisations, for its maturity, governance, membership levels, sustainable values, community engagement, and award-winning marketing. As we work in and with varied destinations, we can speak with qualification when we say that other Councils and tourism operators wish they had a Tourism Noosa, supported by such an enlightened levy model and Council partner, in their corner.</p> <p>Why put that at risk? We very much subscribe to the adage, if it's not broke...We object to proposed Tourism Levy changes in the draft Budget papers for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your draft papers note "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business" – we think that statement is open to misinterpretation by industry.</li> <li>• As a Council that promotes engagement and transparency of governance – there was no consultation. It is our view that many may not understand the distinction between tourism funds coming from a distinct Tourism Levy protected by legislation to ensure the direction and purpose of those funds, versus collection under General Rates where funds go into general revenue and have no such protection. No reason has been given for the proposed change. As we have both been involved in past negotiation of ongoing agreements, we understand there is a very distinct difference. This change has the potential to significantly impact our multi-million tourism industry, yet it has been introduced in an exceptionally tight timeframe, without industry consultation or prior discussion.</li> <li>• We ask councillors to consider the incredible pressure our tourism sector is already under and not add to it. The timing of this proposed change, during one of the most challenging periods on record, is not logical and perceptions surrounding the change and its intent, could lead to weakening of the bank of trust and respect between Tourism Noosa, Industry and Council, so integral to productive, positive outcomes.</li> <li>• As an organisation, Tourism Noosa can evidence long-term credibility, expertise, and achievements over two decades. Key to this success, is a planning process enabled by protected funding through the Tourism Levy, a strong relationship with Noosa Council, and the Funding Agreement.</li> <li>• Our concerns to bring the Levy under General Rates centre around transparency and protection of our most critical industry sector and the destination brand. No matter the intent, Council and Councillors cannot guarantee actions of future staff and Councillors to use the funds for tourism purposes, without the protection of the legislative framework the Levy provides.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors, we urge you to reconsider and reinstate the Tourism and Economic Development levy.</p> <p><b>Submission 4:</b>                  After looking more into this proposal I would like to retract my previous email and instead support Council's proposal. As a founding member of the Noosa Wedding Organization I feel that our industry has received little to no support from TN and I</p>

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	<p>would actually like to suggest that some funds be allocated directly to the Noosa Wedding Organization to use for the promotion of weddings in Noosa and the Noosa Hinterland.</p> <p><b>Submission 5:</b>                      We thank you for the opportunity to provide Budget feedback. We congratulate the Noosa Council staff &amp; councillors on preparing a budget that forecasts a minimal General Rate increase only, especially in times with Inflationary pressures evident. As significant contributors to the Tourism &amp; Economic Development Levy we do wish however to express our concern of the proposed changes in this area. We are strong supporters of Mel Anderson and her team and we would like to stress the importance of providing support &amp; job security to Mel and her key staff. While Noosa may currently be experiencing record tourism revenue, it is without question when International Travel returns, regions so reliant on domestic travel, such as Noosa, will experience a significant decline. The need to be proactive, maintaining a strong brand and experienced team in both marketing &amp; promotion and destination management will be critical to the ongoing economic development &amp; employment within the Shire.</p> <p><b>Submission 6:</b>                      Our recommendation is that Council does not change the levy in this financial budget, but have proper evidence-based reporting and consultation to fully review Council's motives to remove it and the impact on our industry. Our wish is that the council gives additional financial support to Tourism Noosa</p> <p><b>Submission 7:</b>                      I write as an individual ratepayer, former Noosa Councillor under Mayor Bob Abbott at the time of introduction of the Tourism Levy over two decades ago, and member of the inaugural Noosa Tourism Board. I am simply horrified and saddened that the draft Budget proposes to eliminate the Tourism and Economic Development Levy, which over two decades has underpinned an extraordinary partnership between Council and the tourism sector.. I urge councillors to reinstate the Tourism and Economic Development Levy. My concerns are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) At the time of their election, not a single councillor flagged that he or she intended to eliminate the Tourism and Economic Development Levy if elected.. All emphasized the importance of sustainable economic development for the shire. Yet in a little over 12 months from the election, this proposal, with all its flaws, has come onto the table.</li> <li>2) This is a change of extraordinary magnitude for the tourism industry, yet it has been introduced at the last minute almost as an afterthought, with no consultation with the industry and no prior warning in the first round of budget community consultation. This casual attitude to the major employer in the shire could almost be perceived as arrogant and is particularly offensive given the COVID challenges that the industry has faced in the past 12 months.. It would appear that a multi-million dollar industry has been thrown into disarray without serious thought being given by Council to the consequences of the proposal.</li> <li>3) The proposed change exhibits no understanding or valuing of the extraordinary and innovative partnership which has been nurtured by previous Councils and Tourism Noosa over two decades. It was the tourism industry which approached the Abbot council, seeking the levy as a way of building a sustainable tourism industry enabling certainty in investment. A partnership emerged in which Council collected and disbursed funds while fulfilling an overall quality control role on behalf of its community. Council has always had a role in overseeing the direction of the tourism sector through requiring a strategic plan outlining the proposed direction of Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>4) The change from collecting funds via a levy versus bundling them up in general rates has enormous significance, since the Local Government Act specifically requires that levy funds be used for the purpose described in the Budget documents. Funds collected via general rates go into general revenue and have no such protection. No reason has been given for the proposed change. The tourism levy normally raises in the order of \$3M, of which \$2.52M is proposed for tourism promotion.</li> </ol> <p>Council is asking the tourism sector to trust them and believe that the same funds will be disbursed in the future. In effect, Council is proposing to turn an equal partner into</p>

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	<p>a applicant, which must come cap in hand for uncertain funding dependent on the whim of Council. You cannot manage an effective destination management organisation on this basis. Council is asking the industry to accept a second rate solution, when a first rate approach has been successfully working for over two decades. Indeed why on earth should the industry trust council when it makes decisions of this magnitude without consulting with the major parties affected by the change?</p> <p>5) While this council may give good faith commitments on disbursement of funds, there is no guarantee that future councils will do the same. Again, such uncertainty does not encourage serious future investment in the sector.</p> <p>6) The quality control that Council exercises over the investment direction of the levy enables Council to protect the lifestyle of its residents. Unlike many other destination promotion organisations, Tourism Noosa has never embarked on a mass tourism path, and indeed would normally only market to the interstate and international market. While more can always be done, it can demonstrate many initiatives in which it encourages sustainable choices by its members and visitors.</p> <p>Councillors, I urge you to reconsider this proposal and reinstate the Tourism and Economic Development levy.</p> <p><b>Submission 8:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future. Having a tourism-based business I would be very concerned about changing something that is not broken. It has worked incredibly well for many years with Noosa being recognised both locally and internationally through strong marketing of the region. Please think very carefully before you make any changes.</p> <p><b>Submission 9:</b> I strongly object to the proposed changes to the Tourism Levy (as outlined in draft Budget papers), and the proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates. This is alarming for the tourism industry and while the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business" is partially true as tourism clearly needs the support of Council in the local area, Tourism Noosa has for the past for 20 years, professionally, transparently and strategically promoted Noosa with great success. Visitor spend reached a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and as you are aware, Noosa recently won Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award largely due to Tourism Noosa's submission. The actions that you propose, without consultation, are unfair and could potentially damage the outstanding work that Tourism Noosa had done over the years. I urge you to continue to work with Tourism Noosa and maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations. As ratepayers, we should continue to see the transparency around how Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports. With that protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council will continue to use the funds for the purpose of tourism promotion.</p> <p><b>Submission 10:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain</p>

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	<p>the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 11:</b> We have operated Hotel Laguna for more than 29 years and I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 12:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". As a ratepayer, I want transparency. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 13:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 14:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. We've seen similar moves in Byron Bay, as well as all around New Zealand fail terribly for the local communities. Tourism is a challenging industry to balance the communities needs Vs the environment Vs the needs of operators and locals who rely on the income. It's absolutely critical to have a dedicated and well-funded organisation managing this. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa. As a resident of Marcus Beach I will be watching closely, and will base all my future voting decisions around who supports this short-sighted proposal.</p> <p><b>Submission 15:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>

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	<p><b>Submission 16:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future. As a small business in Noosa we rely on Tourism Noosa for a range of services and information – this is not a general role that can simply be taken over by council.</p> <p><b>Submission 17:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 18:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 19:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 20:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future</p> <p><b>Submission 21:</b> Bringing the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? I am concerned that if protection is removed, there is no guarantee that Council or</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>future Councils will continue to use the funds for Tourism purposes. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 22:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 23:</b> As an industry dependant on Tourism we strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future. We have faced hardship due to COVID and we continue with much uncertainty as this health climate keeps evolving and providing new challenges each day. This has impacted the tourism sector in many ways, and we need our tourism body strong and focused on this region</p> <p><b>Submission 24:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa</p> <p><b>Submission 25:</b> The Council collects a Tourism and Economic Levy from applicable rate payers (tourism and commercial businesses, short stay homes and now Air BnBs) and pays Tourism Noosa the set amount of \$2.52M, not including the annual charge of a fee of \$80,000 for collection and distribution to Tourism Noosa. Toward the end of this year, Tourism Noosa will be working with Council to negotiate a new contract for Tourism Noosa to continue its operations in 2022 and beyond. I whole heartily disagree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a fundamental change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for rate payers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. Council is requested to provide the Noosa community with complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The exact breakdown of the total funds being collected from Tourism and Economic Levy rate payers, and how Council plans to allocate that funding outside the \$2.5M for Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>2. Why is it suddenly now that Noosa Council deems tourism as a core responsibility when it hasn't before?</li> </ol>



Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>3. Will Noosa Council publish achievements from the economic development allocation of funds – similar to an annual report for those that contribute to the fund?</p> <p>4. Is Noosa Council planning to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next 5 years?</p> <p>5. Do Noosa Councillors understand the impact to our economy from the visitor economy? If so – why is there not more support for businesses and industry around tourism?</p> <p><b>FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESPONSE:</b></p> <p>6. Can Noosa Council elaborate more on the new allocation of \$150,000 to 'destination management' that has been allocated but not included in the budget consultation process? Is destination management not the core role of a Council and should have been a focus previously?</p> <p>7. The economy of Noosa is critical to families and business. Why has Noosa Council now removed the requirement for 'new to region' retirees to pay 3 years of full rates before a discount is applied – essentially enabling immediate discounts to new residents that do not contribute to economic activity in the region.</p> <p>8. Where has Noosa Council allocated funding for improved traffic and transport options for Hastings Street and Noosa Junction, including allocation for funds for permanent free buses for improved traffic management?</p> <p><b>Submission 26:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 27:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 28:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 29:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p><b>Submission 30:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 31:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 32:</b> The Council collects a Tourism and Economic Levy from applicable rate payers (tourism and commercial businesses, short stay homes and now Air BnBs) and pays Tourism Noosa the set amount of \$2.52M, not including the annual charge of a fee of \$80,000 for collection and distribution to Tourism Noosa. Toward the end of this year, Tourism Noosa will be working with Council to negotiate a new contract for Tourism Noosa to continue its operations in 2022 and beyond. I/We whole heartily disagree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a fundamental change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for rate payers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. Council is requested to provide the Noosa community with complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The exact breakdown of the total funds being collected from Tourism and Economic Levy rate payers, and how Council plans to allocate that funding outside the \$2.5M for Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>2. Why is it suddenly now that Noosa Council deems tourism as a core responsibility when it hasn't before?</li> <li>3. Will Noosa Council publish achievements from the economic development allocation of funds – similar to an annual report for those that contribute to the fund?</li> <li>4. Is Noosa Council planning to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next 5 years?</li> <li>5. Do Noosa Councillors understand the impact to our economy from the visitor economy? If so – why is there not more support for businesses and industry around tourism?</li> </ol> <p><b>FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESPONSE:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Can Noosa Council elaborate more on the new allocation of \$150,000 to 'destination management' that has been allocated but not included in the budget consultation process? Is destination management not the core role of a Council and should have been a focus previously?</li> <li>7. The economy of Noosa is critical to families and business. Why has Noosa Council now removed the requirement for 'new to region' retirees to pay 3 years of full rates before a discount is applied – essentially enabling immediate discounts to new residents that do not contribute to economic activity in the region.</li> </ol>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>8. Where has Noosa Council allocated funding for improved traffic and transport options for Hastings Street and Noosa Junction, including allocation for funds for permanent free buses for improved traffic management?</p> <p><b>Submission 33:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa</p> <p>In addition to the above, didn't we just win best Tourist Destination in Qld (perhaps even Australia). Surely this has been achieved by Tourism Noosa with the support of the Noosa Council, rate payer funded, contributions. At the end of the day, we all benefit from encouraging tourists to our heavenly peace of the planet.</p> <p>As a small business, based in the Noosa Hinterland, it was fantastic to be able to display our product range in the new shelving at the Tourist info centre. It certainly gives us the opportunity to showcase local producers and it is evident that Noosa Council supports us by giving us this opportunity. It's about embracing the good food producers of the region, encouraging tourists to take the hinterland drive (therefore taking the load off Noosa and Hastings street). Please continue to be transparent in a world where transparency is now required.</p> <p><b>Submission 34:</b> As a long-time business owner, employer and resident of the Noosa Shire I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 35:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Where will be the necessary transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as currently seen in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. Tourism is vital to Noosa's economy. It is the largest employer. It is the lifeblood of business in Noosa. With tourism the hardest hit industry due to CIVID restrictions and lockdowns, it is incomprehensible that the Tourism Levy would be discarded, or its expenditure hidden within general rates.</p> <p><b>Submission 36:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 37:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 38:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 39:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 40:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 41:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 42:</b> I understand The Council collects a Tourism and Economic Levy from applicable rate payers (tourism and commercial businesses, short stay homes and now Air BnBs); and under proposed changes to short stay letting this amount is likely to increase. Currently</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>council pays Tourism Noosa the set amount of \$2.52M, not including the annual charge of a fee of \$80,000 for collection and distribution to Tourism Noosa. Tourism Noosa has done a remarkable job promoting and supporting local businesses; especially given the recent Covid disruption, which has been difficult for the tourism sector. Toward the end of this year, Tourism Noosa will be working with Council to negotiate a new contract for Tourism Noosa to continue its operations in 2022 and beyond. I whole heartily disagree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a fundamental change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for rate payers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. Council is requested to provide the Noosa community with complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The exact breakdown of the total funds being collected from Tourism and Economic Levy rate payers, and how Council plans to allocate that funding outside the \$2.5M for Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>2. Why is it suddenly now that Noosa Council deems tourism as a core responsibility when it hasn't before?</li> <li>3. Will Noosa Council publish achievements from the economic development allocation of funds – similar to an annual report for those that contribute to the fund?</li> <li>4. Is Noosa Council planning to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next 5 years?</li> <li>5. Do Noosa Councillors understand the impact to our economy from the visitor economy? If so – why is there not more support for businesses and industry around tourism?</li> <li>6. Can Noosa Council elaborate more on the new allocation of \$150,000 to 'destination management' that has been allocated but not included in the budget consultation process? Is destination management not the core role of a Council and should have been a focus previously?</li> <li>7. The economy of Noosa is critical to families and business. Why has Noosa Council now removed the requirement for 'new to region' retirees to pay 3 years of full rates before a discount is applied – essentially enabling immediate discounts to new residents that do not contribute to economic activity in the region.</li> <li>8. Where has Noosa Council allocated funding for improved traffic and transport options for Hastings Street and Noosa Junction, including allocation for funds for permanent free buses for improved traffic management?</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission 43:</b> To rename / reallocate the Tourism Levy paid by tourism business to general rates seems needless and removes transparency on how this special levy is spent. It looks like council grab for control and muddies the waters for those paying the Levy.</p> <p>It should be treated as separate budget entry and priority and I endorse Tourism Noosa's stance on this and they should be able to maintain some independence – they have done a credible job for the last 20 years and hopefully can continue to guide tourism promotion in Noosa Shire. The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 44:</b> The Council collects a Tourism and Economic Levy from applicable rate payers (tourism and commercial businesses, short stay homes and now Air BnBs) and pays Tourism Noosa the set amount of \$2.52M, not including the annual charge of a fee of</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>\$80,000 for collection and distribution to Tourism Noosa. Toward the end of this year, Tourism Noosa will be working with Council to negotiate a new contract for Tourism Noosa to continue its operations in 2022 and beyond. I/We whole heartily disagree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a fundamental change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for rate payers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. Council is requested to provide the Noosa community with complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The exact breakdown of the total funds being collected from Tourism and Economic Levy rate payers, and how Council plans to allocate that funding outside the \$2.5M for Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>2. Why is it suddenly now that Noosa Council deems tourism as a core responsibility when it hasn't before?</li> <li>3. Will Noosa Council publish achievements from the economic development allocation of funds – similar to an annual report for those that contribute to the fund?</li> <li>4. Is Noosa Council planning to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next 5 years?</li> <li>5. Do Noosa Councillors understand the impact to our economy from the visitor economy? If so – why is there not more support for businesses and industry around tourism?</li> </ol> <p><b>FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESPONSE:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Can Noosa Council elaborate more on the new allocation of \$150,000 to 'destination management' that has been allocated but not included in the budget consultation process? Is destination management not the core role of a Council and should have been a focus previously?</li> <li>7. The economy of Noosa is critical to families and business. Why has Noosa Council now removed the requirement for 'new to region' retirees to pay 3 years of full rates before a discount is applied – essentially enabling immediate discounts to new residents that do not contribute to economic activity in the region.</li> <li>8. Where has Noosa Council allocated funding for improved traffic and transport options for Hastings Street and Noosa Junction, including allocation for funds for permanent free buses for improved traffic management?</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission 45:</b> I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 46:</b> The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 47:</b> We whole heartily disagree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS. 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general</p>

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	<p>rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a fundamental change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for rate payers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. Council is requested to provide the Noosa community with complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The exact breakdown of the total funds being collected from Tourism and Economic Levy rate payers, and how Council plans to allocate that funding outside the \$2.5M for Tourism Noosa.</li> <li>2. Why is it suddenly now that Noosa Council deems tourism as a core responsibility when it hasn't before?</li> <li>3. Will Noosa Council publish achievements from the economic development allocation of funds – similar to an annual report for those that contribute to the fund?</li> <li>4. Is Noosa Council planning to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next 5 years?</li> <li>5. Do Noosa Councillors understand the impact to our economy from the visitor economy? If so – why is there not more support for businesses and industry around tourism? FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESPONSE:</li> <li>6. Can Noosa Council elaborate more on the new allocation of \$150,000 to 'destination management' that has been allocated but not included in the budget consultation process? Is destination management not the core role of a Council and should have been a focus previously?</li> <li>7. The economy of Noosa is critical to families and business. Why has Noosa Council now removed the requirement for 'new to region' retirees to pay 3 years of full rates before a discount is applied – essentially enabling immediate discounts to new residents that do not contribute to economic activity in the region.</li> <li>8. Where has Noosa Council allocated funding for improved traffic and transport options for Hastings Street and Noosa Junction, including allocation for funds for permanent free buses for improved traffic management?</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission 48:</b></p> <p>We are a catering business on the coast, mainly specialize in weddings. The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa. I have no doubt in my mind that tourism Noosa does an amazing Job.</p> <p><b>Submission 49:</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future</p> <p><b>Submission 50:</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in the draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently, and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the work of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p><b>Submission 51</b></p> <p>The Council collects a Tourism and Economic Levy from applicable rate payers (tourism and commercial businesses, short stay homes and now AirBnBs) and pays Tourism Noosa the set amount of \$2.52M, not including the annual charge of a fee of \$80,000 for collection and distribution to Tourism Noosa. Toward the end of this year, Tourism Noosa will be working with Council to negotiate a new contract for Tourism Noosa to continue its operations in 2022 and beyond. In recent years Tourism Noosa has been operating without meaningful Council input and without residents having a say in how the money might be spent in their best interests, not just what suits the industry. Now is the time to let Tourism Noosa be self-sufficient financially, like other industry bodies. We agree with the section under KEY DRAFT BUDGET COMPONENTS 1. Rates and charges. 'Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates (to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy).' This statement provides a necessary change to the transparency and protection of how Noosa Council accounts for ratepayers' Tourism Levy funds, and if they are being used in the best interest of tourism and the economy, businesses and community in Noosa. It provides council with the necessary power to decide the best way funds are spent on promoting the tourism industry. Times are changing, top-heavy tourism bodies are being replaced by more nimble media consultants which don't have the inbuilt inefficiencies of a cumbersome, publicly funded entity such as Tourism Noosa. Council will now be able to make tourism in Noosa more on the terms that suit the Shire, and can call tenders for tourism marketing services that meet these aims. Plus, Council is committed to providing high-quality tourism infrastructure, and this is at a substantial extra cost to ratepayers. Put simply, residents and ratepayers are going without essential infrastructure at the expense of an industry which is not pulling its weight financially. The Noosa community requires complete transparency and answers on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can Council provide the exact breakdown of the total funds being provided to tourism in Noosa, and how they plan to source that funding.</li> <li>2. Since tourism as a core responsibility, when will specific tourism infrastructure appear in the accounts so that the true extent of council's spending on tourism is evident?</li> <li>3. Noosa Council should make a public commitment to reduce funding to Tourism Noosa over the next five years with the aim that it become fully self-sufficient by then.</li> <li>4. Noosa Council needs to audit the impact from tourism on our economy and support alternative industries that don't have the same impact on resident amenity.</li> <li>5. When will Noosa Council fund improved traffic and transport options for tourism precincts, including funds for permanent free buses and improved traffic management, from the tourism levy?</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission 52</b></p> <p>I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p>



Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>Noosa Council would do well to concentrate on its true core business. Basic items, such as maintaining a supply of dog bags along Gympie Terrace, recycling bins for Cooroy, roundabouts for Cooroy, sealing unsealed roads, and the Noosa Waters fountain which has sat as an eyesore for well over a year. A Council that can't manage such minor issues should most definitely not be involved in a \$1.2 billion + business that it clearly doesn't understand</p> <p><b>Submission 53</b>                      As a member of Tourism Noosa I wish to register my feedback and questions in response to the 21-22 Draft Budget as follows: The proposal to bring the Tourism and Economic Development Levy under General Rates is alarming for the tourism industry. Where will we see the current transparency around how our Tourism Levy funds are used, as we do in Tourism Noosa's Annual Reports? With protection removed, there is no guarantee that Council or future Councils will continue to use the funds for their purpose, or will even fund Tourism Noosa for the purpose of tourism promotion. In this uncertain Covid world, now more than ever before our tourism industry needs security and the continued good work of Tourism Noosa. Surely a consultative approach with Tourism Noosa, its stakeholders and members is the best way forward in order to resolve funding issues.</p> <p><b>Submission 54</b>                      I object to the proposal to move funds collected through the Tourism &amp; Economic Development Levy into General Rates and completely reject Council's statement that "tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". I request that Council removes this proposal from the Draft Budget and gives one of our Shire's biggest industries – a <b>\$1BILLION+ industry</b> (Tourism Research Australia figures 2019) – the courtesy of an explanation and the chance to discuss its potential impacts and ramifications. When did tourism evolve into core Council business? If that was the case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why has Council been funding Tourism Noosa to carry out destination promotion for 20 years?</li> <li>• Why has Tourism Noosa had to receive Council approval for the Annual Reports, annual budgets and strategic plans and also present twice-yearly activity reports?</li> </ul> <p>What tourism promotion does Council carry out as "core business"? Until Council can provide evidence of this and rationale for removing the current protection provided by this special levy that ensures the funds are used for destination promotion, this proposal should be dropped. Don't just give a stock answer to the people who have provided feedback to this "consultation" (which I would've thought was a 2-way process but there's been nothing from Council in the way of explanation). The tourism industry; Tourism Noosa, its 900+ member businesses, staff and Board; the levy payers and the Noosa community, many of whom indirectly benefit economically from tourism, all deserve to hear Council's side of the "consultation". It is not provided in your Budget papers.</p> <p>How can legitimate feedback be provided to Council on something to which there is no rationale, no explanation? What has suddenly changed after 20 years? What have Tourism Noosa and the local tourism industry (the Shire's largest employment sector) done to deserve having this change forced on them without the courtesy of one iota of explanation or discussion of the implications? Council has a representative on the Tourism Noosa Board – was the proposal mentioned to the Board? Where was the discussion about this extraordinarily significant change as an election issue last year? There was none.</p> <p>There are so many questions that Council has not addressed that this proposal is an insult to levy payers, the Noosa community and the tourism industry, particularly as they face great challenges and uncertainty due to Covid. What guarantees can Council give the Tourism Levy rate payers that the levy funds, if bundled into General Rates, will continue to be used for their intended purpose, i.e. destination promotion which</p>

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	<p>benefits the entire Noosa community? It's my understanding that funds in General Rates can be used for general revenue and will therefore have no guarantee to be used for destination promotion. How could this scenario support continued confidence in this extremely important sector into the future?</p> <p>How would Council propose to manage destination promotion activities? It's no coincidence that Noosa has consistently shown strong economic growth from the tourism sector over several years (outlined in the Tourism Noosa Annual Report every year, and in Activity Reports to Noosa Council), out-performing other regions, and has weathered the devastating impacts of Covid-19 relatively well in comparison to most tourism regions in Queensland.</p> <p>Strong and clear planning and guidance by Tourism Noosa, engaging with a strong and supportive membership, and the organisation's valued ties with the wider tourism industry are significant and essential factors to this growth. Some fun facts to support this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the 8 years to pre-Covid Dec 2019, domestic overnight visitor spend in:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noosa increased + 116% to a record \$989m</li> <li>○ Queensland increased +41%</li> <li>○ On the Sunshine Coast increased +50%</li> <li>○ Sunshine Coast without Noosa spend (which is counted in the SC total) +28%.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Covid year of 2020, domestic overnight visitor spend in Noosa fell 29.7%, in line with the Sunshine Coast, and stronger than results across other Queensland regions and Australia:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average for Queensland regions was -32.7%</li> <li>○ Whole of Queensland -39.4%</li> <li>○ Australia fell -43.4%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Growth in visitor spend has been greater than growth in visitor numbers, supporting Tourism Noosa's "value over volume" approach.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Source: Tourism Research Australia, National Visitor Surveys 2013-2020; Tourism and Events Queensland Domestic Tourism Snapshots 2013, 2019, 2020)</i></p> <p>I respectfully request that Council immediately remove this proposal from the Draft Budget, and if Councillors are serious about continuing in this direction, that Council begin immediate and actual "consultation" with the tourism industry and wider Noosa community, answering the many questions and providing reasons and evidence as to why this is now necessary.</p> <p><b>Submission 55</b>            I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 56</b>            I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain</p>

Submission Topic	Detail
	<p>the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 57</b>                      I strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in draft Budget papers, and disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business". Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before Covid) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples. I urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p>I further note there has been a complete lack of consultation regarding the proposed changes with relevant stakeholders and the taking away of the tourism and economic levy eliminates a number of key protections for rate payers within the shire who are invested in and rely on Council to fund tourism and economic development in the region. Further the elimination of the levy reduces Council's transparency and accountability to the Tourism sector.</p> <p><b>Submission 58</b>                      Thank you for the opportunity to provide the feedback below: The Council draft Budget Information Sheets contain the following information: "Tourism and economic development activities are now considered core Council business and are proposed to be funded by general rates(to be applied only to those properties that are currently paying the Tourism and Economic Levy)." "2.Tourism and economic development funding now considered core business of Council. The Tourism Levy was first introduced in 2001 to generate funds to invest in a tourism promotion campaign for the shire. Since this time tourism promotion and economic development activities have evolved into core Council business. As such it is now considered that tourism and economic development activities should be funded by general rates (applied only to those properties who are currently paying the levy) rather than through the continuation of a speciallevy. The amount of revenue collected and subsequently spent on delivering these services to support tourism and the economy will remain unchanged –however it will now instead be reflected in the relevant general rate category on the rate notice."</p> <p>I have been a Tourism business owner in the past. I moved here from NZ to invest in a Management Rights business in Noosa in 2007. A reason for investing in Noosa was the understanding of the outstanding values of Tourism Noosa as a key vehicle to promote Tourism in the area and thereby support my business investment. That investment of mine employed multiple people. There is no doubt as is said in the Overall plan of the current Special Rate for the Levy of the vital importance of Tourism in the Noosa economic engine:</p> <p>"Tourism is a major economic driver and Council is committed to its ongoing sustainability and appropriate level of support including promotion and marketing." I have a major concern that this change to move the collection of rates funding into General differential rates as stated jeopardises the funding of Tourism Noosa and diffuses the focus on successful Tourism marketing and support in Noosa.</p> <p>The mechanism to do this outside a Special rate is a concern as the current absolutely focussed use of the funds that are fenced in for the purpose as below is lost "The service, facility or activity for which the rate is levied is the carrying out of implementation of the Noosa Local Economic Plan which includes projects and activities that are aimed at growing the Noosa economy. This includes projects and activities that focus on diversifying the Noosa Economy but also continuing with a key focus on tourism promotion strategies. The projects and activities may be implemented by Council and / or approved external agencies."</p>

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	<p>Please reconsider this change which seems to be an approach that should be subject to deeper consideration and evaluation rather than a change creeping in under a draft Budget cycle. There is an absolute track record of the success of the Special Rate approach since 2001 so any changes should be carefully evaluated.</p> <p><b>Submission 59</b> As the former head of Marketing and Deputy CEO of Tourism Noosa, with over 25 years experience working in tourism strategy and marketing across various states in Australia and first-hand insight into successful working models for tourism at all levels, I am compelled to express concerns regarding Noosa Council's proposed changes to the Tourism and Economic Development Levy and the potential loss to the local tourism industry of what is regarded as a leading model for tourism prosperity in regional areas.</p> <p>During the time of my tenure and beyond, local and regional tourism organisations from across Australia and beyond frequently sought the advice of Tourism Noosa as to how best to structure their operations, from marketing and governance to membership engagement and sustainability approaches. Core to this reputation and achievement that countless tourism regions envy is the levy model and productive collaboration with a supportive Council.</p> <p>As a levy driven from the ground up by local Noosa businesses, the funding enables a well-planned and proactive suite of work, spanning brand and tactical marketing, research program, tourism event funding, sustainability initiatives, consumer communications, international marketing, local visitor information services and much more to be delivered on behalf of all local business operators.</p> <p>Protection of this levy and critical funding for one of Noosa's most significant economic generators must be strongly considered for the benefit of not only the countless local businesses that rely on tourism, but to also protect the billion dollar plus economic impact that Tourism Noosa has nurtured over many years of strategic marketing and management.</p> <p>The statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business" is alarming - tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that has professionally, transparently and strategically promoted the destination with great success. Further, in my experience working and liaising with a wide range of local and regional tourism organisations, tourism that is managed independently from Council, but with the strong partnership of Council, is a model best designed for ongoing success and private sector business industry engagement.</p> <p>I urge Noosa Council to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations well into the future.</p> <p><b>Submission 60</b> We strongly object to proposed changes to the Tourism Levy, as outlined in the draft Budget papers. We also strongly disagree with the statement that "Tourism promotion has evolved into core Council business".</p> <p>Tourism promotion has sat with Tourism Noosa for 20 years, an organisation that professionally, transparently and strategically promotes the Noosa destination, with great success. Our increasing visitor spend (reaching a record \$1.2 billion in the months before COVID) and the recent Queensland's Top Tourism Town Award (Tourism Noosa's submission) are 2 recent examples.</p> <p>We urge you to maintain the current Tourism Levy structure and continue to fund Tourism Noosa's operations for at the next 12 months. Any future changes should be made based on proper evidence based reporting and consultation to fully review Council's motives to remove the levy and the impact on Noosa's tourism industry including its tourism promotion.</p>

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	<p><b>Submission 61</b></p> <p>Tourism Noosa (TN), as representative to 970+ members and essentially the entire tourism sector in the Noosa Shire, has received the tourism promotion component of the funds collected under the Special Levy for 20 years. With the absence of justification and evidence to support the Levy abolishment TN urges Noosa Council to defer their proposal and maintain the T&amp;E levy. It is critical that Council take the required time to consult industry, residents and the actual T&amp;E Levy ratepayers appropriately and transparently.</p> <p><b>PRACTICAL EFFECTS</b></p> <p>Abolishing the Levy removes the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of transparency in regard to the new level of funding, now that transitory accommodation (short stay and Air BnB properties) has been included in the collection of a T&amp;E rate (reported to be an approximate new addition of \$2m in revenue).</li> <li>• Fundamental basis on which TN's funding level is calculated.</li> <li>• Protection – Special Levy definitions, under legislated State Act, dictate how the funds are managed. General Rates have no such protection.</li> <li>• Transparency – the current model provides T&amp;E Levy payers a clear and direct 'line of sight' from what they are paying, how funds are directed through to how the funds are managed by TN. Industry will not see what they are contributing.</li> <li>• Recognition by T&amp;E Levy payers of their investment in the tourism and economic sector and the lack of consultation with that sector in this decision.</li> </ul> <p><b>RELATIONSHIP</b></p> <p>Whilst these points represent the practical effects, the greatest concern in abolishing the T&amp;E Levy, without due diligence, is that it puts at risk not only the current strong Noosa Council and TN relationship, but Council's close and supporting relationship with the entire tourism sector. TN implores Noosa Council to not put at risk a two-decade relationship that has been held up as a model to all other tourism sectors nationwide.</p> <p>Right now, the industry is feeling uncomfortable, somewhat disrespected and concerned their questions are not being addressed. The industry concerns we are fielding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council arrogance in attempting to slip through and trivialise such a monumental change with no prior consultancy and instead – only providing a 3-line paragraph with no evidence-based background.</li> <li>• No discussion paper or report providing the reasons for and against such change.</li> <li>• No prior discussions with key stakeholder such as Tourism Noosa, Business Associations and Chamber representatives.</li> <li>• A 'Trust Me' approach without offering a reason to trust.</li> <li>• Bureaucrats Vs Family run businesses.</li> <li>• Representative Councillors being unprepared to answer questions from members.</li> <li>• Doubts as to some representative Councillors being comprehensively informed.</li> <li>• Put yourself in the shoes of the tourism businesses TN represents, and the feeling of distrust and being misled. We as an industry a rightfully nervous!</li> <li>• The tourism industry is suffering enough with lack of staff, housing shortages and the upheaval of constant changes associated with COVID.</li> <li>• The industry is fatigued and exhausted and now the Council are acting oblivious to the challenges and stress of an already downtrodden industry</li> <li>• Removing the Levy effectively removes the guarantee on how future Councillors, and Council management, will manage and allocate the funds.</li> </ul> <p>It is concerning that TN's role in the current relationship is one of a partner, but the proposed moves will see TN in more of a subordinate position.</p> <p><b>INDUSTRY</b></p> <p>Noosa Tourism Industry facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism is Noosa's 'core' industry, delivering \$1.2b to the local economy.</li> <li>• 970+ businesses are TN members – 30% represent service and indirect tourism businesses.</li> <li>• 75% of businesses attribute their profits to tourism, direct and indirect.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism industry generates 5,700 jobs locally.</li> <li>• 80%+ Noosa residents agree to tourism's positive impact on the Shire.</li> </ul> <p>*sources – Value of Tourism report Nov 2019 and Tourism Research Australia</p> <p><b>QUESTIONS</b> Please justify, and outline the evidence that supports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Noosa Council has consulted or even engaged with the T&amp;E Levy rate payers, and where they would like their Levy funds to go and if they are happy to have their premium charges to be included in the general rates?</li> <li>2. What are the advantages the Council have identified that, the very structure that not only binds us, but extends to the industry an ideal, and much applauded, transparent model?</li> <li>3. Please provide evidence that supports the statement 'Tourism promotion activities have evolved into 'core' Council business.</li> <li>4. Please provide full disclosure of the new charges of 'Transitory Accommodation' revenue budgeted to be collected in the FY 21/22 and comment as to if the reason why the removal of the Levy is to allow Council to take the extra funds collected for this sector into general rates?</li> <li>5. Noosa Council, is this week, is officially considering:</li> </ol> <p><b>ABOLISH:</b> 'Special Levy' Tourism &amp; Economic Levy, the fundamental basis through which Tourism Noosa and the tourism sector is funded</p> <p><b>SUPPORT:</b> 'Special Levy' Environmental Levy, the fundamental basis through which the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation is funded under a 4-year partnership agreement.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> TN is fully supportive of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation. Identical models yet, without justification or supporting evidence, one is selected to be abolished. Please explain WHY?</p> <p>In summary, Tourism Noosa and the industry it represents would like specific, clear and transparent answers to the above question provided to the community at the earliest possible opportunity. Tourism Noosa requests that the T&amp;E Levy remain in the rates notice process and is not removed as a sign to the Noosa community that the Council values and respects tourism within the Shire and the community it supports.</p> <p><b>Submission 62</b> We strongly oppose Council's proposal to subsume the economic and tourism levy into general rates. While Council is understood to have made some private representations to a few selected stakeholders, it has not provided open or transparent process or explanation to the ratepayers themselves.</p> <p>Council has also failed to provide a comprehensive explanation for the reason for the change at this time. Council has also failed to provide suitable guarantees to the levy payers that their funds will not just be subsumed into general expenditure despite it being created for a specific purpose. Council is reported as having ambitions to manage the tourism destination but outlined no detail of what is intended.</p> <p>We consider it highly inappropriate for a controversial strategy to be announced days prior to a decision, with limited factual or evidence based data to support the radical change and no information on the impacts it will have to general rates or tourism. These actions reinforce the community's deep concern with the transparency of Council. In the dying days of the Council's CEO, it is highly inappropriate to allow a private agenda to be pressed forward without proper reasoning or data.</p> <p>We strongly recommend that the decision be deferred until next financial year and for an evidence based, data driven strategy to be provided to the community before any radical change is adopted.</p>

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	<p><b>Submission 63</b>                      Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2021-22 Noosa Council Budget. My concern is around tourism and the funding of Tourism Noosa (\$2.52m) and the activities of Tourism Noosa.</p> <p>It is my opinion that the marketing of Noosa has been to the detriment of permanent residents, that we are now in a phase of over-tourism and Noosa being “loved to death”. The constant promotion of Noosa has contributed to the increase in Short Term Letting to the detriment of residents in low and medium density areas and to providers of “legitimate” Holiday Accommodation including hotels, motels and registered B&amp;Bs. Tourism Noosa’s promotions feel like advertising for the sake of justifying their organisation and spending their budget.</p> <p>I would like to see the funding of Tourism Noosa reduced in this budget and in subsequent budgets to the point that they are self-funding. Funds no longer paid to Tourism Noosa could be allocated to transport improvements including a permanent free bus service like that provided in tourist towns like Santa Barbara, USA. The holiday bus service in Noosa over the past couple of years has been excellent but would be even better if offered year-round. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p><b>Submission 64</b>                      RE: Proposed budget changes to the Tourism &amp; Economic Development Levy distribution</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the budget review to the Tourism &amp; Economic Development levy distribution. Our members are the largest collective contributor (42%) towards this levy therefore the Hastings Street Association place significant importance on the distribution of these funds, so they are used specifically for the tourism industry, from whom it is collected.</p> <p>The Hastings Street Association will oppose the proposed amendments until such time that Noosa Council can guarantee that tourism is clearly stated in budget documentation and these funds are set aside from general rates. The management of these funds must be fully transparent through Council’s monthly reporting cycle to ensure Noosa Council remains accountable to the tourism sector. We acknowledge Noosa Council’s view that tourism is a key economic driver for Noosa however until the guarantees outlined above are received the Hastings Street Association will remain opposed to the proposed changes.</p>