

On the wrong track

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"I can understand spending \$4.7 million to seal a road into a country town if the planned capital works were finished," Mr Hack said. "But they're not."

Mr Hack also said the approval of the funds to seal Dr Pages Road should have seen Mayor Noel Playford declare a conflict of interest at the special 2015-16 council budget meeting on 29 June.

"One of the roads off Dr Pages Road is named Playfords Road and one of his family members owns one of only two stores in the main street, the other business being the pub," he said.

"Mayor Playford should have made mention of his interest and history with the town before voting on the budget that approved the spending of funds to seal the road."

Noosa Today asked Noosa Council if the mayor needed to declare a conflict of interest, but council declined to comment.

According to the Local Government Act 2009 (section 173), a conflict of interest exists between a "councillor's personal interests and the public interest" and must be declared when the conflict "might lead to a decision that is contrary to the public interest" and a conflict can be real or perceived.

The Act (section 172) also states a councillor has a "material personal interest" in a matter before council if a councillor, spouse of councillor, parent, child, sibling of the councillor or partner of the councillor stands to gain a benefit, or suffer a loss, "depending on the outcome of the consideration of the matter at the meeting".



Noosa's inaugural Community Jury has been deemed a success.

It's official: jury is in

By JOLENE OGLE

THE pilot Noosa Community Jury has been deemed a success by council staff, with a report to the planning and organisation committee on Tuesday (18 August) outlining the jury's achievements.

The report said the jury reached a consensus on a "difficult and complex" topic and delivered a report with a full set of recommendations that all jury members stood by, and the trial received "overwhelmingly positive" feedback from the jurors.

A survey of the jurors' experience was conducted by a PHD research student from USC and

found an overwhelming majority of jurors felt their participation had increased their trust in Noosa Council as a collaborative and engaged council, a majority of jurors thought they were provided with comprehensive information about waste management and council processes to inform their decision-making, plus a majority thought the jury was a positive initiative.

Some of the individual feedback included comments such as "I would sum up the experience as rewarding", and "I commend Noosa Council for this initiative".

One response read: "I found being a member of the first Noosa jury an interesting learning experience. The guest speakers were informative and the whole process was very well-organised."

The report also said there was "room for improvement" when it came to implementing the next community jury.

Councillor feedback included the recommendation to better educate the community about the organic waste issue, encourage greater community interest in the topic and more widely communicate the jury's findings as a "ground-breaking and worth sharing process".

The report made a number of recommendations for improvement including advising staff "pa-

tience is required" as it can take several months for jurors to digest the large amounts of information they receive, as well as encouraging the public to attend the community jury meetings.

The second community jury has been chosen and the 24 jury members will have their first meeting on 22 August at Noosa Council chambers, Pelican Street, Tewantin.

The public is welcome to attend as the group begin five months developing recommendations as to how Noosa River can be better managed, the role council should play and the resources it should apply.

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