

Juror's defence

AS A member of the first jury for the Noosa Council, I would like to clear up some of the statements Judy Barrass has made re the jury and our deliberations upon the question, How to manage the minimisation of organic waste going to the landfill.

First, I would like to point out to Judy that jury members were ratepayers. The only one who wasn't was a young and very intelligent uni student, and I am sure her parents would be ratepayers.

On that basis, we all had a right to join in the discussion and make recommendations to be included in the document presented to the council a week ago.

The councillors, last Monday morning, heard the synopsis of the document and all voted to accept the document. Several of the jury were there, including myself, when this was done.

The next step is for councillors to attend a workshop and discuss the entire document and its implementation.

The formulation of this document took the jury six months of hard work to come to the decisions given to the council.

We researched many avenues and had experts in waste management talk with us via Skype, from as far away as Western Australia and closer at Lismore.

Companies such as Coles' waste manager spoke to us from Melbourne. Hervey Bay council's waste manager came and spoke to us about how they handle organic waste, as did the engineer from the Sheraton Noosa.

During all the time we were deliberating on the subject, at no time were we "lead by the new Democracy people".

The final recommendations were the work of the jury.

The reason for putting some food scrape into the green (organic) waste is that when it is mulched, the food scrapes will add bacteria to the mix and helps the mulch break down quicker. A scientific fact.

I work on Clean Up Australia Day at Cooroy and I can vouch for the number of shopping bags caught in trees etc in the creeks in our area after rain. Doggie poo bags don't feature in the rubbish collection on the day.

The jury was elected at random



Fee hike a rubbish idea

AS WAS predicted, the jury has accepted the decision of the council. The council didn't have the guts to make this decision themselves, in case of ratepayers' backlash at the next election.

I went to great expense to do

the right thing and brought a mulcher to dispose of my garden waste, back to the garden. So I do object to have my rates increased for a service that I will not use.

DAVID LEWIS,
Cooroy

and were all residents of Noosa. The ages of the 24 jury members ranged from mid-20s to seven jury members in their 70s, and a good mix of women and men from all areas of the shire.

A group that had a good idea of what the shire's needs were.

If you have a look at the shire you will realise how diverse it is. From mountains to countryside farming, small towns like suburbia, then down to Tewantin where there is manufacturing, trades and many other businesses. Then Noosa and tourists, canal estates, beaches, schools and the biosphere. A unique part of Queensland.

All this diversity has been taken into consideration, turned inside out and examined to come to the jury's conclusions.

Now it is over to the councillors to workshop the jury's findings and perhaps adopt all the recommendations, alter some a little or reject those that perhaps are not as workable as the jury hoped, due to government intervention. The State Government has some say over councils

and the councils are required to adhere to their directions.

I was proud to be on the first Noosa jury and I think we did a great job. So Judy, wait for the improvements and stop knocking the council and the jury.

CATH LYNDON,
Member of the first
Noosa Rate Payers' Jury