From the Desktop - Edition 2

February has been an incredibly busy month with the completion of ‘Pollie School’, the ‘Swearing In’ ceremonies, maiden speeches and the first sitting of the 56th Queensland Parliament. Currently I am in Brisbane for the second sitting, and joining you from the Cafeteria!

Noosa 360 is now live and the first topic is the Noosa River! This engagement platform is your 'voice' and a space for respectful, constructive and the factual sharing of information and opinions that will cover a range of topics across the year. Please join in by registering here or if you are not an 'onliner', that's fine. Just call the office and we can notify you by mail on major legislation or bills where your input is appreciated.

The Inbox

The meeting agenda has been full with business, community and sporting clubs converging to develop potential partnerships, concepts and presenting their ideas for creating change.

People power was in force at the Cooran Earth Rights (CER) coal mining session. It was heartening to see diverse and respectful discussion, with the sharing of knowledge strengthening the collective voice. The message was simple and clear; there is no support for coal mining here, and coal exploration permits should not be renewed.

There have been a number of concerns brought up over the month via Facebook and email which have included Pandanus dieback in the Noosa National Park, toilet facilities on the North Shore and water activities on the river. We will post information on these and others through Noosa 360.

Coffee Corners (my mobile office!) is for those unable to visit the Civic office. Locations, dates and times are now being scheduled and will be posted on our revamped website. The first will be on March 16 in Tewantin, so please call the office for a time slot.

Kin Kin Pink Stumps Day 2018

Kin Kin got the better of Noosa Council at the annual Pink Stumps Day. Congratulations to Captains Cr Joe and Anita, their teams and supporters on another brilliant 'pinking'. A wonderful community event. Click here for more great pics.

Our future is in safe hands with our nextgen! Congratulations Tewantin Noosa Lions Club on hosting another fabulous Youth of the Year.

Queensland's 56th Parliament February has been an incredibly busy month with the completion of ‘Pollie School’, the ‘Swearing In’ ceremonies, maiden speeches and the first sitting of the 56th Queensland Parliament.

Sunshine Coast Sports Awards

The night recognised the outstanding achievements and contributions by both individuals and teams made to sport on the Sunshine Coast. It was wonderful to attend the awards night and meet so many talented men and women. Read more here.

The Outbox

My first sitting in Parliament was certainly eye opening. As covered in the Sunshine Coast Daily (read the story here), I was somewhat disappointed with the personal attacks between Members which sets a very poor example during a time in which we are increasingly focusing on the prevention of bullying. It's time we start moving to a new way of doing politics in Queensland where debate is robust and respectful, with time spent constructively to deliver outcomes.

I have been appointed to the Committee for Innovation, Tourism Development & Environment. This is a relevant fit for the Noosa electorate and I look forward to contributing the Noosa perspective to these vital components of our community.

There have been a number of meetings to progress issues including with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey, regarding Beckman’s Road and the Noosa River, and Minister for Training and Skills Development Shannon Fentiman, regarding the TAFE site at Tewantin.

As well, I have met with Stirling Hinchcliffe, Minister for Local Government and Dr. Steven Miles, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and covered a wide range of concerns for further investigation. These included transport options to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH), maternity options for low risk pregnancies and the return of scopes to the Noosa Hospital.

The Department of Housing & Public Works have been liaising with Noosa Council to achieve visual improvement of the Russell St Boatshed. Council has viewed the department’s amended plans and have rejected them as they do not meet the Noosa Plan. Negotiations are continuing.

QLD Parks & Wildlife Service have been leaf stripping and treating the Pandanus in the National Park for leaf hopper. They will continue to monitor through health checks and I will be meeting with neighbouring MP’s next month regarding the dieback being experienced on our borders.

Current projects in the National Park include upgrades to the Tea Tree Bay Toilets, Noosa Day Use area, Laguna Lookout, internal tracks including the southern section of the Noosa Coastal Walking Track. $2m has been allocated in the budget across the next 2 years for a range of works.

A decision is imminent from Queensland Rail on the historical pedestrian crossing which the Pomona community have been fighting to keep open. The schedule for platform replacements at Pomona and Cooran are to be advised shortly.

Extra signage, marking and an improved line of vision from the Pomona approach of the Six Mile Bridge is nearly complete. I look forward to some feedback from residents as to its effectiveness in reducing the danger of this bridge.

The long standing issue regarding the lack of a toilet at the first or second cutting at the Noosa North Shore is also being investigated and I have been in contact with both the Department and Council regarding options available.

Projects & Initiatives - State

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Skilling Queenslanders for Work funds training and su​​pport for unemploy​ed or underemployed people, with a focus on young people (including those in and transitioned from out-of-home care), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, mature-age jobseekers, women re-entering the workforce, veterans and ex-service personnel, and ​​peo​​ple from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.​ Eligible organisations have until 5pm on Thursday 12 April to develop and submit project applications. Click here for more information.

Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Program #SCRIPT

#SCRIPT is a collaboration of local entrepreneurs, businesses, government stakeholders and community members dedicated to growing innovation and business capacity on the coast. The Sunshine Coast has a strong innovation ecosystem and this funding will allow for greater networking and enable more entrepreneurial activity, resulting in more jobs and a boosted economy. Find out more here.

Noosa EO Reminders

Noosa Electorate Partnerships Program

As part of developing an integrated program to assist our at risk youth, we will be working with a broad cross section of community stakeholders including United Synergies, Noosa Council, community clubs and organisations. Our focus will be on leveraging limited resources to deliver better outcomes. If your organisation would like to be involved please contact the office.

Stay Connected

Our monthly newsletter aims to achieve a number of things – to inform, to inspire and to remind. We will include happenings in Noosa, in Parliament, and how you can help to create the world you wish to see. To subscribe click here. Other ways to keep updated include liking our Facebook page and through monthly columns in both Noosa News and Noosa Today.

And finally...

A special mention to the families and friends of much loved locals, and in many instances, iconic characters, we have sadly farewelled this month. Funerals are always hard, however the memories, laughter, photos and history shared between everyone enriches, embraces and celebrates their lives, now woven into our future as we retell their experiences. And learn from.

Warmest regards and see you soon!

Sandy