

Paid Parking at Noosa Heads Lions Park Should Continue

The Noosa Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports the continuation of the temporary paid car parking at Noosa Heads Lions Park during holiday periods, with parking managed by the Tewartin Noosa Lions Club.

The alternate motion which was carried 4-3 at Council's March Ordinary Meeting flew in the face of the Council staff recommended motion which was that paid parking be approved for a further 12 months during Queensland school holidays, public holidays and long weekends through to May 2024.

This would have still allowed public use of the rest of Lions Park and the whole park most of the time.

Instead, the alternate motion which was carried 4-3 disallowed the paid parking on long weekends and July and September school holidays after the 2023 Easter period, with only further use being allowed at Christmas 2023 and Easter 2024.

This is negative demand flow management and provides no support to the local economy and a very important Noosa charity, and offers no new solution to the parking and traffic issues in the Hastings Street precinct.

The outcome will inevitably see increased traffic congestion with cars driving round and round in the Hastings Street precinct looking for parking, and Little Cove and Noosa Sound residential streets further clogged with overflow parking.

The Tewartin Noosa Lions Club makes a significant contribution to the Noosa community by raising funds during holidays at Lions Park, a contribution which supplements Council community development work, thereby reducing costs of such services to ratepayers.

Businesses in the Hastings Street precinct depend on holiday peak period revenue to subsidise low season periods and Lions Park paid parking helps facilitate this.

The impact of parking in nearby residential streets is an issue for residents which the Lions Club managed parking partially mitigates.

Councillors have an obligation to deliver outcomes that are in the whole of the community's best interests and that contribute to the community's social and economic aspirations whilst reflecting Noosa's environmental values.

The Noosa Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports Tewartin Noosa Lions Club ongoing management of paid parking in Noosa Heads Lions Park during school holiday periods, public holidays and long weekends, as originally recommended by Council staff.

Ralph Rogers
President
Noosa Chamber of Commerce and Industry