



'Bring Back Bruce'

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Quanda Lake should remain a public asset

Dunne supports trial period for community management of waterway

The controversial management of Coolum's Quanda Lake is one of the first issues the new Sunshine Coast Regional Council will be required to make a decision on after next month's local election.

Division 9 candidate Bruce Dunne believes the important waterway should remain a public asset and wants the incoming council to consider handing it to the community to manage on a trial basis.

"If residents haven't experienced its beauty yet, I recommend they take a drive out to Quanda Road (just west of Coolum) and onto the western side of the industrial estate along Junction Drive," Mr Dunne said.

"The beautiful lake system that abounds with all sorts of bird and fish life, including some magnificent black swans, is the remains of a sand mining operation which ceased some time ago."

The lake was handed over to council at the completion of the sand mining operation and Mr Dunne was one of the Maroochy Shire Councillors that voted to acquire the community asset.

Details of a controversial plan by council to lease the area to preferred tenderer Oz Ski for a reported nominal fee of \$1500 a year created a storm of media coverage, with community groups and residents alike voicing their outrage at the proposal.

"It was always the intention to develop this waterway into a public facility. I do not support this council deciding to virtually give away this large lake to a private commercial operator," Mr Dunne said.

"I have no issues with the private commercial operator, but they should find private land on which to build their business, as do most businesses."

"This wonderful asset has the potential to be a magnificent public area. The current council has taken away this opportunity from the community by leasing it out to private enterprise for an insulting sum of \$1500 per year."

"During the tender process the community, through different sporting, environmental, and social groups, had expressed interest in retaining the lake for community usage," said Mr Dunne.

If elected to Division 9, Mr Dunne will work to retain the waterway as a public asset; with a view to involving the community and utilising the abundantly skilled experts already available to project manage the area.

"The council should hand the lake over to the community as a public asset to see if we can make a go of it. My vision would be to create something like a people-friendly flora and fauna land and aquatic sanctuary," he explained.

"I'm sure there will still be commercial operators queuing up to lease it if by chance it doesn't work out."

Currently, the status of the Quanda Lake leasing arrangement with council's preferred tenderer, Oz Ski is:

- Following a public tender process in 2011, Oz Ski Sunshine Coast was recommended as the most advantageous offer to Council for the future use of the Quanda Road Water Resource site.
- Council has entered into an agreement to lease with Oz Ski.
- The agreement to lease includes a number of precedent conditions prior to entering into a formal lease.
- Oz Ski has previously lodged a development application for a Material Change of Use (MCU) for the proposed water ski facility.
- Council has requested further information to be provided before the application is advertised for public comment.

Oz Ski has provided the further information and it is advertised for public comment.

"This application is up for public comment NOW (**28 th March— 15th May**) I urge residents to object," Mr Dunne said.

"Hopefully, the community can stall the process long enough for the incoming council to take control and have another look at what can be done to develop this waterway into the wonderful public park and aquatic arena it should be."

-Ends-

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High-resolution photos of community usage on Quanda Lake available on request