

# Civic case co-respondents step up

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More than 25 organisations and individuals who have formally objected to Noosa Civic stage three have agreed to stand up and be counted by becoming co-respondents in the legal appeal.

The deadline to become co-respondents in the pending Stockwell versus Sunshine Coast Regional Council legal stoush in the Planning and Environment Court was last Thursday.

By Friday the court website had posted 11 parties prepared to join with council in the legal proceedings, after developer Mark Stockwell decided to challenge councillors' refusal for 30,000sqm of additional retail space at Noosa's business centre.

But former Noosa Council town planner Paul Summers said he was representing a further 15 parties who had filed to become co-respondents before the cut-off late on Thursday.

The addition of what Mr Summers called "the coalition of the willing" means there will be a hard core of stage three opposition in the court room – if the appeal proceeds to trial.

Lining up alongside council as listed on Friday's website was Main Roads, the Noosa Junction Traders Association, developer Lend Lease, local IGA supermarket owner Mel Luke, S&L Developments, the Wolter Consulting Group, KGS Holdings, Douglas McGuffog, Janise McGuffog, Jonathan King and Don Shipwat.

Mr Summers said the appeal process would be fairly protracted and was likely not to come up for mention for three months, while the whole case might take one to two years.

The expected scenario is for a directions hearing, where the appeal process is mapped out by the parties and the judge, followed by a discovery session, where documents held by the various parties are released.

This should be followed by an expert report exchange before the parties must take part in mediation to try and settle the matter without a hearing.

If no agreement is reached then the court will order expert conferences to determine issues in dispute or issues of agreement. A final expert report exchange would take place so that issues of dispute only would be put before the judge.