

Iconic amendment is a minor hitch

Iconic and ironic isn't it?

Noosa has just had amendments to Iconic Queensland Places Act 2008 to enshrine its unique qualities, but the powers that be say there is nothing special about that.

Just some technical housekeeping, they say, to the protections that are supposed to prevent Noosa's iconic values from being eroded.

In fact a spokesperson for planning minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the Noosa News public notice on October 13 was not about covering tracks about lax legislation, or fixing up any development loopholes as one local town planner suspected.

Former Noosa Council planner Paul Summers said even with his specialist knowledge, he had trouble deciphering what the advertised changes to "declaration of iconic values, protected planning provisions and local laws" for Noosa were all about.

His worst fear was that because Noosa Council had morphed into the Sunshine Coast council, the iconic laws may have been negated for a period before this latest legislative fix. But Mr Hinchliffe's spokesperson said there was no need for alarm – the planning protection horse has not bolted with the barn gate open.

"All Iconic Queensland Places Act protections have been in force since the original declaration was gazetted on June 20, 2008.

"There has been no lapse in the enforcement of the protected provisions and the iconic values between May 11 and now as a result of the planning scheme amendment.

"The amendments were found to be technical or minor in nature."

The spokesperson said it was deemed necessary to amend the state's declaration so that the protected planning provisions from the Noosa Plan and the iconic declaration now corresponded with each other.