



Nancy SOMMERFIELD For COUNCIL

20 January 2012

Press Release for immediate publication

Sommerfield confirms tilt for Council

Nancy Sommerfield has confirmed rumours that she will be nominating for a Councillor position in the upcoming local government election due March 31. Keen to provide a positive and progressive contribution to the region, Nancy has an agenda to be an inclusive Council for the whole community, embracing the region's towns and villages.

Nancy believes that Community Committees are the key to putting the heart back into the small communities swallowed up post amalgamations. These committees would assist council in the management of community facilities and make recommendations to council regarding their local needs. The members would serve voluntarily and could either be nominated by the community or be elected every 4 years by postal vote of locality residents.

This structure, successfully implemented in a number of other amalgamated Council areas such as Tamworth, would be designed to increase communication between Council and its constituents. The community groups would be advisory and advocacy bodies only with Council retaining ultimate decision-making responsibility.

Community Committees would keep residents informed about what is going on in the region and their neighbourhood. Committees could use regular newsletters or their local paper to highlight important accomplishments and milestones which would be a valuable tool for members of the community to stay informed about what is happening locally.

“On another note, I believe there is a real need to focus on turning around the current reputation that Council has in stifling development.” Nancy said, citing that the current slump in the Toowoomba region’s building industry needs to be spiked with enthusiasm by Council through faster processing of development applications and an obliging attitude.

Nancy also says “There appears to be a great opportunity and, importantly, a growing need for development of the land mass at the Toowoomba Airport. With businesses growing their fleet to sustain growth in mining and other industries, there is an appetite for suitable hangar and maintenance facilities which would give Toowoomba’s economy a healthy boost, particularly following the recent investment in extending the airstrip and I would be encouraging Council to get behind these opportunities.”

Other issues on Nancy’s radar include Council shopping local; reassessing dump closures and levies; improved walking paths for those seeking healthy lifestyles and greater clearance of storm water drains.

(End)

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