

Former Maroochy Mayor to run in Division 4

Former Mayor of Maroochy Joe Natoli will contest the local government election next month in Division 4.

“The Brisbane Road car park deal, paid car parking, the new council building, a casino, the arts, convention and exhibition centre, town planning amendments favouring developers – these are all issues of vital importance and they’re all in Division 4,” he said.

“These vital issues were the trigger for me to step back into politics because I am concerned with the Council’s processes and the lack of transparency.”

“People talk to me from right across the region and are worried about these same things,” Mr Natoli said.

“I represented much of this division when I was a councillor from 1997 to 2004 and as mayor from 2004 to 2008.

“Division 4 is the tourism and business hub of the Sunshine Coast and I feel a very strong connection to the area.

“It is the geographic and economic centre of the region and where many of the impacts of population growth are felt the most,” he said.

Mr Natoli said infrastructure is severely lagging behind development and the growing pains for residents were real.

“If I am elected, I will fight to have no paid parking in Mooloolaba and Maroochydore (or anywhere else) - certainly no casino. I will further the arts, convention and exhibition centre in Maroochydore.

“I have significant experience and I will use my knowledge and strong voice to bring back common sense decision making, along with open and accountable governance,” Mr Natoli said.

“The Sunshine Coast has pristine beaches and an enviable lifestyle – we are different to the Gold Coast and proud of it.

“We do not need a casino decimating our local, community-based clubs (surf clubs, bowls clubs, RSL clubs) - a casino would signal the ‘beginning of the end’ of everything we have fought so hard to preserve,” he said.

“I have a proven track record of being fair, honest and accountable. I am hard-working and driven and I am passionate about representing the community,” he said.

Joe Natoli is married to television presenter and USC lecturer Rosanna Natoli and they have three children: Ruby, 18, Mia, 15 and Roman, 12.