



# take ten

with the Greens  
candidate for the  
seat of Noosa,  
Joe Shlegeris

**NOOSA Today sat down with Greens candidate for the seat of Noosa Joe Shlegeris, who talks about his concerns for Noosa, the coal industry and climate change.**

**Could you please tell us a little about yourself?**

I moved to Noosa with my wife in 2011 and was previously in Townsville for 17 years. While I'm a recent member to the Greens party, I became a Greens member because the party encourages individual thought and does not place any restrictions on its members.

**Do you think there will be a swing towards the Greens Party in the next election?**

I hope so, for better environmental policies which have only been made worse under the current LNP. The Greens are the party for small business for two reasons: 1. Payrole tax and 2. Stamp duty. I plan to fight the LNP on the business front where all the new jobs are created.

**What are some of your concerns for Noosa and Queensland?**

We are approaching a financial cliff. The state does not need to continue funding big business

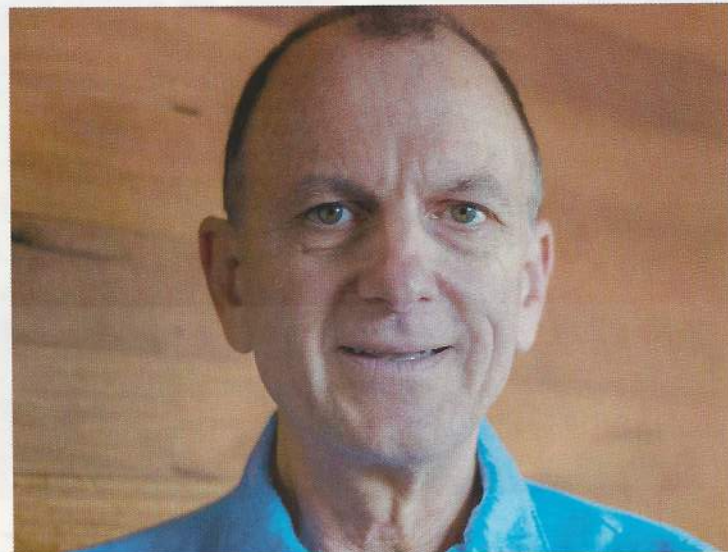
when small business is suffering. We need sensible environmental policies for small business, nurturing of the Noosa Biosphere and better policy on power generation and a review of the tax imposed on power users. Under the current LNP, the Noosa Hospital is also set for closure by 2019, no further funding is available in the budget.

**What are your views of climate change?**

It's blindingly obvious that climate change is occurring and when you're running a business you're mindful of this. But the climate change debate has reached a stage of uncertainty, similar to those parallels to tobacco; there are now gaps in our understanding. What are needed are sound financial policies which take into account the environment to plan for a long-term future.

**What is your view of the coal industry now and into the future?**

The state spends billions supporting the coal industry for extremely little return. The LNP government has bet Queensland's future entirely on the coal industry, which is on the brink of



**Joe Shlegeris is ready to take on the LNP for the state seat of Noosa, and he's keen for a debate.**

its steep and terminal decline. The government is making a one-way bet with Queensland's future. The Treasurer might as well be taking our money down to the track. This isn't an argument about climate change or about whether we should be using coal or not. It's simply recognition of the fact that the coal era is ending, fast. The state could incur a generation's worth of debt and keep coal

going for a couple of extra years. Or it could get out of the way and let Queenslanders scoop up the unlimited free energy which falls from the sky or blows past every single day.

**Would you be willing to take part in a political debate with the other candidates?**

Yes, I would welcome a debate with the other candidates.