

26th February 2016

Keep your Parking Meters

“If some Councillors and candidates want to introduce parking meters across the region, they can expect some serious opposition to their proposal” said Division 3 candidate Mr Andrew Champion.

It was revealed at the Division 2 meet the candidates forum this week that “there is a region wide report being prepared by council to look at paid parking across the coast” said Mr Champion.

“ I had local support to keep parking meters out of Kawana Waters (Division 3 and 4) over a 20 year period when I was last on council”. Mr Champion said.

As long as there are alternate options from having to pay, I’m happy if people want priority access and are prepared to pay for it. The issue I have is that I am horrified that there is no free parking spaces anywhere in the vicinity of the new Kawana public hospital. There should be free parking options, just like if you drive into Brisbane there are free roads. This is an issue of equity and those that can’t afford to pay the premium to park in expensive multi deck car parks, in close proximity, should be able to choose to park for free within a close walking distance.

“ I think business pays too much in rates already. Caloundra shoppers have a choice, they can put money in the Caloundra meters or they can shop at places like Currimundi Market Place where they can do so for free.

The argument was always that Caloundra Councillors wanted to generate funds from parking for Caloundra CBD improvements but I could never understand why the huge amount of revenue raised in Bulcock St and surrounding business zoned properties in Caloundra was not enough?”

“Paid parking is fine at the airport and in downtown Metro CBD, where limited parking means someone has to pay for the convenience of multilevel car parks. It’s either the businesses, the council or a specialist car parking provider that builds them”.

“I’m also opposed to road tolls particularly where there is no alternative and was actively involved in the formation of the successful community group called Tollbusters along with Bob King and Suzelie Connelly. We won that fight and I suspect there may be another one brewing if candidates are elected that support parking meters”.

