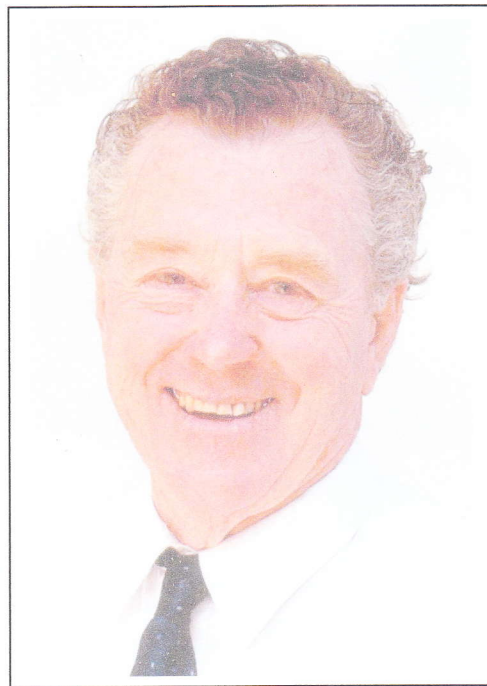


# Time for experience

Fraser Coast Regional Council

*Candidate, Division 2*

Vote 1 **John Horrex**



## 30 years experience in Local Government

Examples -

- *Mayor, Tiaro seven years.*
- *Mayor, Hawkesbury City four years.*
- *Country Vice-President State Local Govt. Assoc. (NSW).*
- *Former Chairman Wide Bay – South Burnett Regional Local Govt. Assoc.*
- *Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee Representative, former Lower Mary River Councils (7 years).*

John can be contacted on (mob) 0409 351 414, (07) 4123 5995

Authorised by John Davis, Glenwood, Qld.

## Tiaro Bridge.

The existing wooden bridge, built in the 1930's, has long passed its 'use by' date. Over the years and more recently maintenance has been carried out on the structure at considerably high cost, more recently closed on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 for further inspections as to its state and structure.

In 2003 I submitted a proposal to the then Federal Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Rural Communities, the Hon. John Anderson on his visit to Tiaro Shire. He recommended that a further submission be forwarded to Senator Ron Boswell, which I did and further to a State Cabinet community meeting held at Miriam Vale, where I raised the overall issue of bridge funding with the then Education Minister for Queensland Anna Bligh, who chaired the meeting. I have also raised the matter on subsequent occasions with no response. Action needs to be taken now.

### Flooding.

The existing wooden bridge services the rural communities to the west and north of Tiaro. However, in times of flooding access is prevented, much to the inconvenience of local residents (including a school bus route), through traffic, local businesses and general transportation of goods and services. In 2011 repairs were carried out an extended period causing considerable financial loss and inconvenience to the township of Tiaro. This was extensively reported in the local media.

### Importance as a bypass road.

The Mungar road access has been listed as a bypass road in case of closure due to accident on the Bruce Highway between Tiaro and Maryborough.

However, a higher bridge would provide access to Maryborough and the Bruce Highway to the north if the bridge over Chinaman's creek is closed due to localised flooding.

### Existing condition.

The bridge has no guardrails & due to its alignment heavy vehicles often run up & on the wooden curbs causing damage not only to the signage and curbing, but also more seriously to tyres on these vehicles. I am concerned for the safety of drivers as the day may come when a vehicle mounts the curbing and finish up in the river.

The existing bridge design has the habit of collecting logs and lesser debris and has to be cleaned up after each flood causing additional delays to the travelling public.

### Action needed.

A solution would be to build a high-level flood free concrete structure similar to the concrete bridge built by the Tiaro Shire Council in 1997 – 1998 connecting the Emerys (Shire) Road across the Mary River.

The Tiaro Bridge is on a State classified road, however, and must be fully funded by State or Federal sources.

Given the importance as outlined above of an all weather flood free bridge across the Mary River, this project should be given a high priority.

John Horrex, EM.  
Fifth January 2012.