

## **Responses to Questions on Notice for Etheridge Shire Council**

### **Response received 10 July 2014**

#### Questions on Notice for Etheridge Shire Council

1. How many Council members or their families will directly benefit from the iFED project?

Answer - One councillor has an option to buy placed on his property to be part of the I-Fed project if it is to go ahead.

2. Do you think that represents a conflict of interest for the Council in terms of its support and advocacy of the iFED project?

Answer - At this time there has been no town planning issues relating to the I-Fed project placed before council. The only part that council has played in the I-Fed project is to be aware of and keep up to date with the project's plans and commence to make appropriate urban planning to accommodate the I-Fed project.

There has been no acquiring of land or businesses by any councillors since the I-Fed project has been announced.

Council is openly supporting the project because of the greater economic opportunities that it offers to the Etheridge Shire, the town of Georgetown and the development in the north generally.

Council openly supported the I-Fed Project when it was firstly proposed to be extracting water from the Gilbert River, have a dam at Green Hills and proposing to place the farming enterprise using properties along the Gilbert River. However property owners along the Gilbert River would not consent to their properties being part of the project and told the I-Fed Group to 'get out of town'. Council were informed that the I-Fed Group then relocated their project to the Einasleigh River and then continued to support the project to the same extent. Council has been consistent with its support for the I-Fed Project through all its dealings.

The council is not supporting the I-Fed project because of any gain that will be made by any councillors or council staff but because of the opportunity to create wealth and well-being for the entire community.