John-Paul Langbroek Member for Surfers Paradise (LNP) Deputy Opposition Leader, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Commonwealth Games, has called on The Gold Coast City Council to fast-track a Spit Masterplan. Photo: Steve Pohlner

NEWS

Surfers Paradise MP John-Paul Langbroek calls for Gold Coast Council to begin Spit planning

ANDREW POTTS, COUNCIL REPORTER, Gold Coast Bulletin
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SATURDAY's destructive fire on The Spit has sparked a renewed call for the Gold Coast City Council to fast-track a proposed masterplan for the Broadwater.

Deputy Opposition Leader and Surfers Paradise MP John-Paul Langbroek call Saturday's fires a "wake-up call" for the Gold Coast Council.

Mr Langbroek urged city leaders to rapidly progress talks after the fire trapped crowds at the Spit's far-north and forced the evacuation of Sea World.

"The fact that locals and visitors at Main Beach were left stranded with nowhere to go amid the

evacuation at Sea World simply isn't good enough," he said.

"Main Beach is an increasingly popular area, and it is clear that SeaWorld Drive is struggling to cope,

especially at certain times.

"The development of a master plan would recognise the shortfalls of the existing infrastructure, and

would provide a plan to ensure that Main Beach and the Spit are safe and accessible places."

The fire broke out on the Spite at around 9.45am Saturday morning and raged until the early afternoon.

The blaze devastated bushland on the eastern side of the peninsula.

But volunteers who care for the area in the Federation Walk reserve will be out in force this weekend.

The Gold Coast City Council today donated more than 500 plants to go towards Sunday's planting, which will run from 7am on Federation Walk.

Mayor Tom Tate planted the first tree this morning with Friends of Federation Walk's Lyn Wright.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Cr Tate confirmed at an October Central Chamber of Commerce breakfast that early talks had begun between the state and council for a Broadwater masterplan.