



Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
and Minister for Trade and Investment

Our ref: MC16/4262

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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3 NOV 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2016 regarding Petition No. 2610-16 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 11 October 2016 about creation and implementation of a community driven master plan for The Spit, Gold Coast.

I appreciate the concerns expressed by the petitioners.

Gold Coast residents love The Spit, so I understand the community's interest in a master plan that would describe the long term future of this area.

Prior to the 2015 election, the Queensland Government made a commitment to preserve the Gold Coast's northern beaches and South Stradbroke Island (including The Spit north of Sea World and Wavebreak Island) from inappropriate development which will destroy its public amenity. However, I acknowledge there may be options for good, sensible and sustainable development on The Spit. The challenge is to provide a balanced response to a variety of issues including infrastructure capacity, environmental matters and amenity issues such as access to the waterfront and overshadowing of beaches, while providing opportunities to enhance the tourism offering for the Gold Coast and South East Queensland.

As you may be aware, Councillor Tom Tate, Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council (the council) recently asked the state to develop a master plan for The Spit in partnership with the council.

A master plan is one option that the government is considering to resolve these issues and provide a basis for a statutory response to the election commitment. However, this matter will need to be examined in more detail before a decision is made. The government is currently in the process of determining the next steps and a decision will be made in the near future.

The council's *Gold Coast City Plan* (City Plan) outlines the planning requirements for development on The Spit like building heights, density, traffic and public open space, and was developed following extensive community consultation. It is important to recognise that the existing City Plan – finalised just six months ago and developed over a period of two and a half years – already provides a 20 year planning framework for The Spit.

Currently, the Department of State Development is also progressing the potential Integrated Resort Development with ASF on the five hectare site between Sea World and the Gold Coast Fishermen's Co-operative.

ASF is yet to submit its detailed proposal for the project, including how it would address some of the local traffic issues.

Once ASF puts in its detailed proposal, we will be in a position to fully consider all of this, and determine the best way forward on a master plan.

If you require any further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Greg Chemello, General Manager, Economic Development Queensland in the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning on 3452 7686 or by email at greg.chemello@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



**JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER**

**Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
and Minister for Trade and Investment**