



Anna Bligh MP

- 9 NOV 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000



Queensland
Government

Deputy Premier
Minister for Finance
Minister for State Development,
Trade and Innovation

Dear Mr Laurie

Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 535.05

I refer to your letter of the 6th October 2005 regarding the petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on the 28th September 2005 by Honourable Premier and Treasurer, Peter Beattie MP concerning the proposed Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal. I will be writing individually to petitioners providing them with the following response:

"Thank you for your advice in respect of the proposed Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal.

The petition you have signed raises three areas of concern, namely the possible loss of public open space, the potential environmental impact, and the retention and management of public open area space on the Broadwater for the benefit of residents now and in the future.

There has been much misinformation in the community. Most of this information concerns the size of the actual terminal, the level of cruise ship traffic which would use the Gold Coast terminal should the development proceed, the additional infrastructure surrounding the proposed terminal, the effects on recreational activities in The Spit area and the use of public open space.

The Government's proposal represents a balance between development and public recreational space.

As part of the proposal:

- The proposed Cruise Ship Terminal would occupy 1ha (or 8%) of the existing 12ha Doug Jennings Park.
- Doug Jennings Park will remain public open space for recreational use.
- The State Government will provide funding for an upgrade of the park, including the provision of new amenities.

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- The vast majority of open space on The Spit will be preserved.
- The State Government will provide \$100,000 per year to the Gold Coast City Council to ensure the protection and enhancement of the 92ha nature reserve Federation Walk.
- The proposal also includes a marina facility for superyachts, recreational and commercial craft and the development of commercial or tourism related business on property south of Seaworld.
- It is anticipated that apart from a period of 1 to 2 hours during the arrival and departure of ships there will be no disruption to surfers, fishers and the boating community. Only one ship can be at the Terminal at any one time with about 30 ships expected in the first year. The EIS process involves exploration on the possible effects to recreational activities in the area, including diving, fishing and surfing.
- The EIS process also involves community consultation and members of the public will be encouraged to provide submissions.
- The community will be given the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS report and any further studies required to examine amendments to the project.
- The EIS process is expected to be completed by mid 2006 and, should it prove environmentally sustainable, construction could start as early as 2007.

I am aware of the special significance to Gold Coast residents of the public open space on the Broadwater. This proposal seeks to strike a balance between the need to enhance marine and tourism facilities in the area while maintaining and enhancing public open space and recreational facilities.

Thank you for making your views known to the Government and for providing me with an opportunity to respond."

Yours sincerely

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Finance
Minister for State Development
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