



Media release - No balance in the Beattie Bligh proposal

Save Our Spit Alliance is taking the Government to task over its advertisement published in the GC Bulletin on Saturday 11th February 2006 and Gold Coast Sun 15th February 2006.

Steve Gratton, President of SOSA, said "the Government's idea of balance is obviously very different to that of the thousands of Gold Coasters who oppose the shipping terminal development on The Spit and we are pointing out some of the more obvious flaws in their argument. The current development scheme has the scales of balance heavily weighed in favour of the development industry and the Government fantasies about the financial benefits they suggest will spin off to the community." Steve continued "There is **NO balance in losing massive public open space** in the Marine Stadium and Doug Jennings Park, which is currently used extensively by thousands of locals, tourists and visitors."

There is **NO balance** in limiting and **restricting access to the Seaway** for fishermen, divers, surfers, boaties and their families.

There is **NO balance** in a **terminal, docks, fuel dumps etc** which will **NOT** improve the attractiveness and value of the area for the public.

There is **NO balance** in **destroying proven profitable and sustainable tourist and recreational businesses** for unsubstantiated "economic" benefits - *4.6 million per year refer GCMDP Initial Advice Statement 6.8.*

There is **NO balance in overriding the Gold Coast City Council Planning Scheme**, which was formed after extensive community input i.e. no development north of Sea World Nara - *Gold Coast Planning Scheme - Part 6, Division 2, Local Area Plans Chapter 26 The Spit (Gold Coast Harbour) Precinct 2 The Seaway Park.*

There is **NO balance in completely ignoring** the decision of **GCCC Meeting 8th August 2003** - Gold Coast Harbour Vision 2020 Project, which recommends no commercial or private development of the remaining open areas of The Spit.

There is **NO balance** when the Government is not concerned about the effect on amenity and lifestyle for local residents e.g more traffic, air, water and noise pollution.

There is **NO balance** when **nuclear powered military vessels** possibly carrying nuclear weapons could dock in close proximity to residential areas.

There is **NO balance** in exposing our prized Gold Coast beaches to the **risk of a Gladstone style oil spill**. The fast moving tidal currents of the Seaway would see oil spread swiftly from any marine accident. If it happened there, it can happen here.

There is **NO balance** putting canal residential properties at a **greater flood risk** by dredging to accommodate large ships. Higher flood levels would be disastrous for homeowners across the Gold Coast. Refer Gold Coast Sun article 17 July 2002 Page 16: *"initial consultants report advises that the two Seaway proposals under consideration, one with a breakwater, one without, would cause substantial major flood damage."*

There is **NO balance** in the **safety risk for returning boats** and small craft that have to hold their position in the open sea when commercial or military vessels cause the closure of the Seaway to navigation.

There is **NO balance in destroying the best city dive site** in Australia and possibly the world.

There is **NO balance** in creating a conflict between the activities of **surfers, divers** and boaties with commercial and military vessels.

There is **NO balance in using flawed methodology** in the Navigational Study. The seaway tides are known to run to six knots not 1.3 knots and safety figures should not be averaged. Refer: *preliminary report of ship simulations Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal Qld. Aust., Qld. Govt. document, December 2004.*

There is **NO balance** between the paltry "\$4.6 million" per year the Queensland Government predicts will come from a Gold Coast shipping terminal and the closure of the dive industry, a **downturn in recreational, commercial and tourist fishing/surfing/boating visitors** and the subsequent loss of hundreds of millions of dollars that these activities bring to the Gold Coast. The risk associated with oil spills and large vessel pollution is unacceptable and a liability for Gold Coast tourism as a whole.

Rita Mahon, Nerang Community Association spokesperson stated "We surf, we fish, we dive, we walk, we picnic, we enjoy The Spit - a commercial development takes away the ability to enjoy the beauty and amenity of this unique area under the guise of 'much needed tourism infrastructure' - **that doesn't add up!** What about a monorail (or light rail) connection from Southport to Nerang Rail Station to provide efficient public transport from Brisbane and the Brisbane terminal? - **now that adds up!**"

"Superyacht facilities and associated tourism facilities can all be built South of Seaworld Nara - **now that adds up!**" said Laird Marshall, SOSA Treasurer. Laird added 'Why doesn't the Government ask the Gold Coast community what infrastructure it wants and needs. We can assure them it is not a shipping terminal.'

Steve Gratton speaking also on behalf of the Main Beach Progress Association said "Our two local Councillors Susie Douglas and Dawn Crichlow have both stood up and publicly spoken against the Government proposal for a shipping terminal and we should also remember the words of the most pro-development Qld Minister the state has seen - Russ Hinze - he said **"I would quit rather than sell The Spit"** and he said it for good reasons because he was familiar with the area and understood the future needs of the community." *Page 7 Gold Coast Bulletin 12th May 1987*

The Save Our Spit Alliance is about conserving the limited coastal open space left on the Gold Coast and Peter Low, Secretary of SOSA said "It is all about Save The Spit, Save Wavebreak, Save Seaway Beach, Save Marine Stadium, Save our Ocean beaches and protecting our quality of life. These things are important to thousands of Gold Coasters."

Lois Levy, Gecko's SOSA representative urged all Gold Coasters to "Join the community movement against a Shipping Terminal. We started giving the Government our views in April 2005 and at that time and since, our input was apparently **NOT** 'sought or welcome' but they are hearing from us now and will continue to do so."

Save our Spit Alliance:- Atlantis Scuba, Bicycle Gold Coast, Devocean Dive, Gecko, Friends of Federation Walk, Gold Coast Dive Centre, Gold Coast Kayaking, Ian Banks Diving, Main Beach Progress Association, Nerang Community Association, Sunfish, Surfers Against Ships, Surfrider Foundation

Spokesperson and President of SOSA: Steve Gratton mobile tel no. 0403 788 175

**These recommendations were carried unanimously at the
Gold Coast Council Meeting on Friday 8th August.
The Motion was put by Cr Alan Rickard.**

**GOLD COAST HARBOUR VISION 2020 REPORT 22 - ATTACHMENT A- RECOMMENDATIONS
REFLECTING COUNCILLORS DIRECTIONS WORKSHOP OF 14 JULY 2003
DOC # 15202065**

1. That with respect to the progression of the Gold Coast Harbour Vision 2020 Project, Council states its position as follows:

No private or commercial development on public land shall be considered on the Spit or any other Broadwater foreshore area as part of this project except development in accordance with existing Planning Scheme provisions being the land on the Spit west of Seaworld Drive between Seaworld Nara and the South port Yacht Club; and that any leases granted be term leases (not perpetual leases);

2. That the Chief Executive Officer (Director EDMP) prepares a holistic plan that has regard to and builds on the existing planning documents for the subject area, to be named the Southern Broadwater Local Area Plan, to ensure a coordinated approach to conservation, development and management in the area. Such plan shall be in accordance with the following principles:

- a) Mixed tourism related commercial facilities from the Southport Yacht Club to Seaworld Nara;
- b) Retention and enhancement of Seaworld as a major tourism element for the City;
- c) Retention and enhancement of the existing fishing fleet (trawlers) facilities on the Spit to create a commercial seafood and marine oriented precinct;
- d) Marine Stadium retained for aquatic events and passive recreation;
- e) Recreation facilities on the Spit supporting the existing focus on surfing and fishing;
- f) Retention and enhancement of Doug Jennings Park, and environs to promote and complement recreation and events;
- g) Oceanside park for conservation and passive recreation from Southport Surf Life Saving Club to the Seaway east of Seaworld Drive;
- h) Creation and implementation of a Federation Walk Ocean Reserve Development and Management Plan in line with the expectations of the Friends of Federation Walk and also recognising the important profile of this area in Australia's leading tourist city so that the asset created will be of enduring benefit to the Gold Coast.
- i) Enhancement of the Broadwater Way foreshore public boardwalk and pathway system (from Paradise Point to the Marine Stadium);
- j) Public recreation, events precinct and urban park on the Southport Foreshore;
- k) Marina operations within the existing skyline and marine activities in the Broadwater south of Wavebreak Island
- l) Environmental areas near Wavebreak and Crab Islands;
- m) General boating and yachting in the Broadwater north of Wavebreak Island to Sovereign Islands;
- n) Conservation, environmental protection and general boating and yachting north of Sovereign Islands;
- o) Environmental programmes on South Stradbroke Island; and
- p) Retention / enhancement of Coomera Island as an environmental reserve.
- q) Wave Break Island be maintained and enhanced as resources are available with commercial development precluded. Consideration to be given to the feasibility of a camping facility and public access (e.g. ferry services).
- r) Support the Super Yacht Industry through Council's Economic Development Branch in line with Council's Economic Development Strategy and in cooperation with the Marine Industries Association (MIA) to promote the Gold Coast as a Super Yacht destination and maintenance base.

The Spit getting the balance right

Invitation to the people of the Gold Coast

The Queensland Government has a vision for The Spit. This vision includes much-needed new tourism infrastructure, but also improves the attractiveness and value of the area for the public.

The proposed Gold Coast Marine Development project is heavily slanted toward preserving and enhancing the current environment.

The project will have to meet stringent environmental guidelines and deliver set economic benefits to go ahead.

The proposal for the project – including a Gold Coast cruise ship terminal – is still subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Studies and includes a public consultation process. You are encouraged to participate when it launches in March.

The initial advice on the Gold Coast Marine Development project indicates strong economic benefits of having a stand-alone cruise ship terminal and marina.

The commercial and tourism development will create jobs and additional economic activity.

But it's early days yet.

The proposed Gold Coast Marine Development project is heavily slanted toward preserving and enhancing the current environment.

The project will have to meet stringent environmental guidelines and deliver set economic benefits to go ahead.

The proposal for the project – including a Gold Coast cruise ship terminal – is still subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Studies and includes a public consultation process. You are encouraged to participate when it launches in March.

The initial advice on the Gold Coast Marine Development project indicates strong economic benefits of having a stand-alone cruise ship terminal and marina.

The commercial and tourism development will create jobs and additional economic activity.

But it's early days yet.

“The Queensland Government has a vision for The Spit – but the project won't go ahead unless it stacks up environmentally and economically.”

Anna Bligh MP, Deputy Premier.

Nine consortiums have lodged Expressions of Interest for the Gold Coast Marine Development project, and these are being assessed.

The Queensland Government's vision for The Spit – representing a clear balance between public space and recreational and tourism facilities – includes:

- a preservation program for Doug Jennings Park and the western arm of the Marine Stadium
- the provision of recreational facilities for public use
- a protection and enhancement program for Federation Walk and Nature Reserve areas east of Seaworld Drive
- a cruise ship terminal
- construction of a marina facility for superyachts, recreational and commercial vessels at either the Marine Stadium or adjacent to Sea World
- the development of 6.2 hectares of State land south of Sea World.

The cruise shipping industry is estimated to be worth a clear balance between public space and recreational and tourism facilities – includes:

- a preservation program for Doug Jennings Park and the western arm of the Marine Stadium
- the provision of recreational facilities for public use
- a protection and enhancement program for Federation Walk and Nature Reserve areas east of Seaworld Drive
- a cruise ship terminal
- construction of a marina facility for superyachts, recreational and commercial vessels at either the Marine Stadium or adjacent to Sea World
- the development of 6.2 hectares of State land south of Sea World.

The cruise shipping industry is estimated to be worth \$200 million a year to the Australian tourism industry and, with the right infrastructure, Queensland has the potential to tap into the market and gain about \$80 million annually.

For more information on the Gold Coast Marine Development project please visit www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au

or you're welcome to write to:

The Project Director
Gold Coast Marine Development Project
The Coordinator-General
PO Box 15009
City East QLD 4002

Your input is sought and most welcome.

Hinze speaks out at base opening

'I'll quit rather than sell the Spit'

GCB 12.5.87 p7

MULTI-Minister Russ Hinze says he will not be in a government which allows the little bit of land left on the Spit to be 'flogged off'.

Speaking at the opening of the Southport-Surfers Paradise Air Sea Rescue group's new base, Mr Hinze said the Spit was one of the most controversial and sensitive areas in Queensland.

"If we have to flog off the little bit of land left, I won't be in the government," said Mr Hinze.

"I hold very strongly that there is to be no more development on the Spit.

"And I know the demand for the little bit of land left," he told about 200 people.

Mr Hinze said the Gold Coast Waterways Authority should never have to pay more than \$30 million to the State Government for work on the Gold Coast Seaway.

Environment

He rejected the idea of rezoning and selling land to pay for works associated with the stabilisation of the former Southport Bar.

Queensland could 'carry' the debt, he said.

And he said a proposal for a golf course development on South Stradbroke Island was unacceptable.

The environment would suffer if there was any further development.

But Gold Coast Liberal Party spokesman Vince Camilleri yesterday blasted Mr Hinze for his comments on the Spit issue.

"Maybe the multi-minister is not aware of a spate of development proposals and applications for units,



Local Government Minister Russ Hinze raises his hat to the new Air Sea Rescue base at the Spit

marinas, pier development and reclaimed islands all within the Broadwater," said Mr Camilleri.

"Mr Hinze was a member of the State Cabinet when the Gold Coast Waterways Authority was commissioned and now it seems that he does not care about the authority's strategic plan, which has received his sanction."

Mr Camilleri said 'someone must have told Mr Hinze there was a by-election looming at Southport'.

"It's almost as if he was asleep while all The Spit development has taken place," he said.

Tuesday, April 14, 1987

35¢

Phone 392522

Classifieds 392000

Rector fears Spit as 'monument to greed'

by MICHAEL NIELSEN

THE Southport Spit 'will probably become a monument to the greed, arrogance, negativity and lack of vision of those who seem incapable of rejoicing in God's gift', Father Raymond Smith said yesterday.

Father Smith, the Rector of St Peters, was speaking during a moving memorial service tribute to former State Member for Southport Doug Jennings, who was a vigorous campaigner to preserve the natural attractions of the Spit.

Mr Jennings had the mark of a good parliamentarian — 'one who represented all people, not just himself and not just the arrogant and corrupt few', Father Smith said during the eulogy.

Applauded

Mr Jennings was a regular worshipper at St Peters Anglican Church.

Father Smith said the people of Southport would sadly miss Mr Jennings' efforts to preserve local areas of natural beauty.

"We only wish there had been more success before the ruination of that once naturally beautiful area, and breathing space for people, known as the Spit," he said with a note of regret.

Father Smith said the people of Southport totally applauded Mr Jennings' spirited efforts to achieve the sensible preservation of areas such as the Southport Spit.

Father Smith, who shared Mr Jen-

nings' love of nature and fitness, said that people who forgot that they were tenants, not owners, of the Earth would be 'barefooted and flatfooted come Judgement Day'.

Mr Jennings, 57, whose vigorous style of politics endeared him to the man in the street, was found dead in the Parliamentary annexe gymnasium last Thursday. He is believed to have had a heart attack.

An overflow congregation of about 600 people, including Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, State Cabinet Ministers, National Party and Liberal state and federal politicians, leading businessmen and representatives of community and sporting organisations, attended the service.

Father Smith said Mr Jennings did not stoop to back-stabbing in his career.

Instead, he was a man of honour, integrity, courage and intelligence, who possessed a keen sense of humour.

"Friend and foe alike knew he was alive," he said.

Mr Jennings' father, Sir Albert, founder of the massive A.V. Jennings construction empire, brother Vic and son Kim, travelled to the Coast for the service.

The MP's body will be flown to his home state of Victoria for burial tomorrow.

Mr Jennings had held the seat of Southport since 1980.

The Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, leads the memorial service procession

