



Media Release

Friday 16 September 2011

Sustainable Broadwater Plan Needed

Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Inc (Gecko) welcomes the State Government decision to support the development of a management plan for the Broadwater and has been advocating for a plan for sustainable management of the Broadwater for over a decade.

However, Gecko does not welcome suggestions of revisiting the concept of the cruise terminal, as suggested by some, as this is definitely not a sustainable use of our beautiful Broadwater.

Lois Levy, Secretary of Gecko said "Many people think that a cruise terminal with multiple ships is the solution to the downturn in tourism on the Gold Coast. What they don't realise is the costs of these ships to our natural marine environment and to our community. Studies demonstrate that cruise ship passengers do not spend megabucks in port."

In 2003-2006 during the Save Our Spit campaign over 30,000 people on the Gold Coast signed a petition to the State Government opposing a cruise ship terminal in the Broadwater. This is the largest petition ever sent to Government and it demonstrates that a lot of people understood the problems associated with cruise ships in the Broadwater.

Just some of these problems include:-

- Impact of major dredging on the abundant marine life in the Broadwater.
- Impact of ballast and foreign marine organisms introduced into the marine environment
- Water and air pollution when ships are in port.
- Loss of existing industries dependent on the Broadwater including the surfing industry worth millions, fishing and diving industries.
- Loss of an exceptional recreational resource to the general community

"The Broadwater is a fairly small body of water and should not be compared to Sydney harbour. Its sustainable management is essential after decades of ad hoc decision making and the failure of both local and state governments to follow through with the Gold Coast Harbour Vision recommendations for the development of a management plan" said Lois.

Gecko has written to Hon Craig Wallace, Minister for Marine Infrastructure, seeking information about the Terms of Reference for the proposed management plan and seeking to have Gecko recognised as stakeholders in the development of the plan.

Lois continued: "Our economy and society depends on the health of our natural environment and proposals to build cruise ship terminals and floating hotels in our Broadwater will not improve the natural environment. This is a resource that must last for all people for all time, and not be sacrificed to the desires of a few developers. "We hope we don't have to mount a Save Our Broadwater campaign and that a recognition that we must have genuine sustainable industries will prevail."

ENDS

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