



**Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.**

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Letters to the Editor  
Gold Coast Sun  
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Dear Sir/ Madam

### **The Numbers don't Lie.**

In response to ASF Consortium spokespersons Frank Cardarello, L. Buckley and Barbara Wiltshire (GC Sun 18.12.2014) Gecko invites them to come and examine in person the 2490 individual vote ballot papers collected at the "Grand Theft" Wavebreak pubic rally on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. They are also welcome to examine the copy of the 10,000 strong petition sent to the State Government earlier this year of people opposing the ASF development on Wavebreak Island. Frank can be assured that Gecko and SOSA have been asking both State Government and Council for 11 years for some basic amenities on The Spit, but neither level of Government is willing to provide more trees, a BBQ, a toilet block and some picnic tables. Perhaps Frank could be more persuasive? Barbara needs to know that independent research has identified 400 species of marine creatures in the Broadwater, including recently a new species of pipefish. An equal number of migratory and domestic bird species are found there as well and many are protected by international treaties to which Australia (and therefore Queensland) is a signatory. Increasing the hard stand that concerns Barbara, by concreting Wavebreak Island to accommodate an extra 15,000 people will contribute to the stresses of these species and the thousands of Gold Coasters and visitors who enjoy the Broadwater's recreational and natural assets.

Barbara, Frank and L. Buckley are welcome to organise their own pro ASF public rally. Perhaps they should also examine the PR spin, which is not backed by facts, that ASF put out regularly before they so easily accept that a massive casino based resort and cruise terminal has the potential to be of benefit to the city. The Broadwater is our Central Park. If ASF want a casino resort they can buy their land like all other developers and leave our Broadwater alone.

These writers appear to be concerned with the validity of this free expression of genuine public feeling. Were they so cautious when presented with the dubious Newspoll survey results which scraped together a bare 53% support (about a project with very little information at that time) , or subsequent "selected" consultation in which some participants were offered grocery vouchers by ASF? No such subterfuge at the rally. When presented with truth, scientific studies and a sobere analysis of the proposal, people had no trouble deciding the ASF Broadwater proposal was totally unacceptable.

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