



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

ABN 90 689 258 843

Gecko House, 139 Duringan Street, Currumbin, Qld 4223.

Telephone 07 5534 1412

office@gecko.org.au www.gecko.org.au

9 May 2015

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **All quiet on the Broadwater front**

Following the barrage of pro-cruise terminal rhetoric launched by the ASF Consortium in a bid to shore up their application for a casino and build a new suburb in the Broadwater, the results of the recent rushed poll of Gold Coast residents was presented to Council last week.

Gecko-Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council (Gecko) Secretary Rose Adams said, "Following this presentation there is a deafening silence. No edicts from State Government, no statements from Council or ASF and no more pretty pictures in the Bulletin. More importantly, there is still no proposal on the table. Gold Coast Residents are none the wiser about the full extent of the integrated resort development, how many or how tall the buildings might be or what impacts there would be to our public open space, our environment and our lives."

Ms Adams said, "It was no surprise that the consultants claimed 52% of those surveyed "supported the Broadwater project." This was a snapshot survey of people who knew little about the project beyond some pretty pictures in the media and who have not read the technical reports currently available that highlight the enormously complex issues and negative aspects of dredging, restructuring Wavebreak Island and imposing massive development of a scale unheard of on the Broadwater.

It is also worrying that the pollsters attempted to denigrate the strong message of opposition to the proposal coming through loud and clear via social media and overwhelmingly in the responses to Bulletin articles that merely repeated the hype from those who want to get their hands on our public land, with no attempt at independent journalism."

The report tabled by Newspoll last Friday claimed "The majority of Gold Coast residents know about the project through a newspaper article (72%) and TV (69%), followed by radio (58%), word of mouth (38%), other website (17%), City of Gold Coast Council website (14%) and project website (6%). When compared with the Newspoll survey, it is evident that social media commentary is not representative of the Gold Coast community's views of the project."

"Gecko members strongly reject this statement and the inferences drawn by Newspoll and ASF," said Ms Adams. "This is an issue about which few are qualified to have an opinion at this stage, simply because so little information about the project is available. All we have so far is a glossy sales pitch and unsubstantiated promises of jobs and wealth. This is not the basis upon which to decide the fate of our Broadwater. Despite several Councillors questioning how reliable such a poll could be under these circumstances, Council has in their words voted to support the continued application of due process and consideration in respect of the ASF proposal, in so far as this proposal now pertains to the State's Integrated Resort Developments procurement process.

This is not a mandate from the people of the Gold Coast and should not be construed as such."

ENDS

Contact Rose Adams (Secretary) 0407 151 671