



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

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Media Release

Vote for the Environment!

Despite the raft of changes to legislation that have reduced environmental protection of water, agricultural land, protected areas and citizen's rights to object to major developments, the environment has not been a major issue in this election.

Exceptions to this have been the issues of the proposed cableway to World Heritage listed Springbrook National park and the ASF Consortium's proposal for a casino based resort development with cruise terminal on the Broadwater. Both of these proposals promise serious environmental degradation of two of the main ecological assets of the city and have also demonstrated a lack of accountability and transparency, so far, by sitting members.

Other environmental issues relevant to the Gold Coast have been presented to voters in Gecko's Environmental Scorecard and include the political parties' policies on acquisition of more national parks for the protection of nature and our eco-tourism industry, climate change mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protection of native flora and fauna, and sustainability as a basis for development decisions in the city plan.

Lois Levy, Advocate for Gecko-Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assoc. Inc. (Gecko) said "The ASF Consortium proposal has proved to be a major issue for those candidates standing in the seats of Broadwater, Southport and Surfers Paradise, because of community fears of loss of the essential and irreplaceable public open space and the degradation of the waters from the dredging for the proposed cruiseship port, near tripling in size Wavebreak Island. The LNP sitting members have disappointed the voters by failing to clearly state the party's policy on this issue despite numerous requests. All other parties, except Family First, have stated an intention to scrap the proposal and protect the Broadwater."

The environmental record of the current Government has caused a great deal of distress among conservationists and the general public on the Gold Coast. There has been a sustained attack on the preservation of public open space, both recreational and conservation areas, as the Government appears to think that it is open slather to give these essential assets to developers for their private profit.

Rose Adams, Secretary of Gecko said, "Most voters are also unaware of the huge number of changes that have been made to national park and vegetation protection laws that put our special areas, so essential for the protection of our unique flora and fauna, at serious risk of degradation. These areas that are our tourism lifeblood as well as the last refuge for so many species, but are now further endangered by commercial development within the national parks as well as high impact activities such as mountain biking, horse riding, 4X4 driving and orienteering. These activities belong outside of protected areas."

A healthy economy is based on a healthy environment and voters need to think carefully about which party can offer the best management strategies to sustain our environment. It costs a lot of

money to repair environmental degradation, if it can be done at all. It is far better to avoid those costs at the outset.

The Gecko Environmental Scorecard is designed to be a guide to voters this Saturday and will also give an opportunity for further community discussion about the matters listed there.

Contact:

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Rose Adams, Gecko Secretary, 0407 151 671

2015 Queensland Election

Gecko's Environmental Scorecard

Does the Party support:

Issues:	LNP	ALP	Greens	PUP	Gecko Policy
commercial development in public open space including conservation areas?	<i>YES</i>	<i>SOME</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>?</i>	No permanent commercial development. Only sustainable temporary commercial activities
the acquisition of additional national park lands?	<i>SOME</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>?</i>	Increase of national park estate from 4.8% to 10% in line with most other States
The refusal of the ASF Consortium casino/resort development/ Cruise terminal in Broadwater?	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>	Total opposition to this development and any commercial development and a cruise terminal on public open space in the Broadwater including Wavebreak Island
a proposed cableway in World Heritage Springbrook National Park?	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>?</i>	Total opposition to a commercial mass tourism cableway in Springbrook National Park. Support for low impact eco-tourism.
climate change mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	Active support for State wide measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and incentives to promote the development of renewable energy in all sectors of society. Phase out fossil fuels.
the protection of flora and fauna in legislation and practise	<i>SOME</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>?</i>	Reverse the amendments to the Nature Conservation Act which allows commercial development in national parks and high impact activities.
sustainable decisions in planning and development?	<i>NO</i>	<i>SOME</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>?</i>	Maintain the urban footprint to protect our hinterland from urban development. Include sustainable design on subdivisions, housing and other developments.

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