



30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **Media Release**

### **Gold Coast Forum on New Planning Laws**

The State Government is currently developing new planning laws which will impact on all Gold Coasters, in the development of their city, their homes, workplaces and recreational opportunities. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to understand the proposed new laws Gecko-Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council (Gecko) and the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) are holding a forum called a LawJam titled Planning Reform and the Community to be held at 6pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Robina Community Centre, Auditorium, Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina (opposite the shopping centre).

The LawJam will provide vital information to all:-

- Gold Coast residents interested in the impacts of planning laws on their community,
- Practitioners and students of planning, architecture, community development and engineering and more
- All conservation and environment organisations with concerns about retention of biodiversity conservation, public open space and community amenity.

Those wishing to attend can RSVP through Facebook <http://ow.ly/OOJhV> or the official RSVP: <http://ow.ly/OOJwZ> or phone Gecko on 5534 1412.

Four expert speakers will present the different perspectives on the topic of planning for our State and Gold Coast city. These are:-

- James Coutts, Executive Director, of Planning Services with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Local Government.
- Jo Bragg, Principal Solicitor and Chief Executive Officer with the Environmental Defenders Office, where she has worked for over 20 years.
- Professor Philip Follent, Life Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects and passionate about social, environmental and heritage advocacy, design expertise and an inspired approach to urban development.
- Brian Feeney, Retired City Planner, with decades of experience in planning and the impacts of planning on the quality of life of residents of the Gold Coast.

Following the presentations by the speakers the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of any member of the panel.

The event will be moderated and hosted by Lois Levy, OAM, Campaign Coordinator of Gecko

#### **For Further information contact:**

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