



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

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Media Release

More Unsubstantiated Claims by ASF.

An article in the Sunday Mail 29th March once again made unsubstantiated claims that 75% of Gold Coasters support the ASF Consortium proposal for a massive suburban/ casino development on the public open space that is Wavebreak Island and a cruise terminal.

Lois Levy, Gecko- Gold Cost and Hinterland Environment Council (Gecko) Campaigner said, "The population of the Gold Coast is 560,000 and to our knowledge 420,000 people have not been surveyed by ASF so their claim is patently false. No evidence of these miraculous results has been provided to the community, but the Sunday Mail article states "the proponents released the details exclusively to the Sunday Mail ". We must ask if such conclusive evidence of majority support really existed surely ASF would provide that evidence to the State Government and City of Gold Coast Council?"

Past experience of ASF surveys indicate a bias and questions framed in such a manner that they encourage only supportive responses. There is no information in this article of what questions were asked and who asked them. The so-called consultations are marked by spin and unrealistic promises of jobs. By contrast Gecko, Save Our Spit and Save Our Broadwater have hard factual evidence in two petitions that over 10,000 Gold Coasters reject this massive public land grab.

Lois said "The Premier promised the community on 25th January that there would be no development on Wavebreak Island and we have no reason to doubt that the promise will be kept."

The issue of the over development of public open space in the Broadwater by this Consortium is past the popularity contest stage and ASF have failed consistently to come up with anything more than pretty pictures of their proposed suburb for 20,000 people . The facts are that the Consortium refuses to buy their own land for their proposed development and want a gift of public open space. There is no reason why their purported benefits would not apply equally to an integrated resort development built on appropriately zoned land.

The scale of the proposal is completely over the top, the dredging for the cruise terminal will destroy the marine habitat and the recreational resource that is the Broadwater. The Other Side surfing site will be forever compromised by an urban development that is simply a repeat of existing urban development and a cruise terminal that will never see a cruise ship. Their own economic report states that the casino precinct will have to compete with closer Asian casino based projects in Marina Bay, Sentosa, Macau, the Philippines, Taiwan and Korea. All this from a company that had a \$7 million loss in December 2014, according to their six monthly report to the Australian Stock Exchange.

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