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Media Release

## Call to Candidates to Tell the Truth

14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Gecko- Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Inc. (Gecko) and the Save Our Spit Alliance Inc. (SOSA) are convening a 'Tell the Truth' Public Meeting at the Southport Community Hall – Lawson St. Southport, next to the Southport RSL – on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at 6.30pm.

Lois Levy, Advocate for Gecko, said “We are calling on candidates to unambiguously, truthfully and transparently present their policies on the commercial development of the Broadwater with a casino based integrated resort and cruise terminal and commercial development of public open space generally. Deputy Premier Seeney may not think it is an election issue, but we can assure him that it is. It is essential that voters understand exactly what is intended for the future of the Spit, Broadwater and Wavebreak Island in addition to other Gold Coast public , parks and waterways “

The purpose of this public meeting is to give an opportunity for candidates of political parties standing in Gold Coast electorates only on these specific issues (detailed below) prior to the January 31<sup>st</sup> election.

1. Your Party's policy on the preservation of Queensland's public open spaces including parks, waterways, islands, foreshores and beaches.
2. Your Party's specific policy regarding the current Integrated Resort Development Project (IRDP) proposal by ASF (China) Consortium for a casino, high-rises, private apartments and marinas and cruise ship terminal developments on public open space on the Southport Broadwater, Spit and Wavebreak Island.
3. Your Party's policy on future development proposals (government or private) on the Spit, Broadwater, Wavebreak Island and other Gold Coast public beaches, parks and foreshores.
4. Your Party's policy regarding the long-term protection, preservation and maintenance of the Spit and Broadwater and their islands, beaches and foreshores.

Each Political Party or Independent candidate representative will be given 5 minutes to clearly articulate the four policy points referred to above.

Dr Gration, President of SOSA said “Over 3000 people at the recent December public rally showed their concern about the loss of their public open space in the Broadwater and the degradation of this unique ecosystem and we expect that they will welcome the opportunity to question potential representatives at this Tell the Truth meeting.”

Following the address and introductions from all speakers, the public will have a short session in which to ask further questions from the floor which will be moderated by Dr Gration and Ms Levy.

The order of the speakers at the ‘Tell the Truth’ Public Meeting will be determined by drawing numbers from a hat prior to the beginning of the meeting. Proceedings will begin at 6.30pm and conclude by 8.30pm.

**Contact:**



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