Spit Masterplan workshops

Speech by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
The Honourable Cameron Dick

Saturday 28 April 2018

I would to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we meet today, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Could I also acknowledge:

- Donna Gates – Deputy Mayor, Gold Coast City Council.
- Mara Bun – Chair of the Board, Gold Coast Waterways Authority.

On behalf of the Queensland Government, I welcome you to the first consultation event for the Southport Spit master plan.

Thank you for giving up your weekend to join us in this early step in the master planning process. This weekend represents an important stage in our shared commitment to deliver a community process to drive a community solution for this iconic community asset.

We are committed to a genuine process of consultation and engagement to help realise The Spit’s potential.

This consultation follows a series of information pop-up stalls held throughout the Gold Coast (17 pop up sessions, over 880 people visited them, 481 on line submissions received).

There are some caveats around this Master Planning process. The Premier has made it clear that the Government intends to abide by the three storey limit for development south of Seaworld, and has declared that the area to the North will be preserved as a state reserve.

You carry with you considerable responsibility, and the weight of the community’s expectations, as you embark on this period of consultation.

The future of The Spit has been a contested space for public policy for a number of years, and a source of tension between advocates and opponents of greater development.

Today, we need to come together in a spirit of good will and co-operation, understanding that whilst we might hold a particular view or represent a particular interest, we have a greater responsibility to the broader community to work in their interests.

We need to see The Spit no longer as a battlefield, but as an opportunity to build consensus for a vision that delivers a sustainable future.
The job of this group is, in part, to deliver a plan which balances commercial enterprise with environmental protection, tourism potential with community amenity.

The Spit is a special place, and needs to be handled with care. There is considerable expertise gathered here today: we now need the will and sense of shared purpose to convert activism to action, protest to pragmatism, debate into a cohesive plan that delivers a great outcome for the Gold Coast.

This workshop is the first of a series of four. At each event participants will be presented with the opportunity to workshop certain aspects of the master plan which relate to a particular stage in the process.

For the first workshop we are interested in hearing views about the preferred vision for the future of the Spit.

I wish you well in your deliberations, and thank for giving up your weekend to participate in this process. I can assure you that the Government is looking with interest and considerable anticipation to see how this process works, and the final plan that will emanate from it, as you consider how best to develop, and preserve, this beautiful and very special part of Queensland.