

Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula

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Reg Lawler, Chairperson of Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula said that he was ashamed of the Bligh Labor government

Mr Lawler had been the Labor endorsed candidate for the state seat of Gympie 3 times in the past.

“In 1984 the Bjelke Petersen government issued Development Leases to sandminers in exchange for mining leases of little value. But the leases provided that both the local council and the Queensland government had to approve of proposed development and the also required development approval which allowed for public objection and possible court challenge.”

“Now the Bligh government is proposing to issue a development lease in “exchange” for a lease of little value - a basic repeat of Bjelke Petersen. But the Bligh government has excluded the local council by refusing to have councillors on the Working Group. And the Bligh government is proposing to effectively exclude input from the local people at Rainbow Beach as they say that the agreement with the developer, Rainbow Shores, “must incorporate an agreed development outcome for the land swap areas”. The government is proposing to allow a 30 day objection to the Draft Master Plan but if the lease and development rights have been approved the objection process is a farce”.

“So the Bligh government is proposing to swap a lease of little value for land of a value of \$100 - 150 million and to do this without effective input from the local council or the local people.”

“Bjelke Petersen had more principles and had more respect for the opinions of the people of Queensland.”

“Insult is added when the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Paul Lucas, said on 16 Jan 2008, “Part of the process will be to make sure the community is widely consulted about the future uses of this popular area.” and then denying Gympie Regional councillors representation and not consulting the Rainbow Beach community at all.”

“There should be no further large scale development on the Inskip peninsula which is very erodable sand and a general height below 4.5 m AHD. Further development could occur on the high land behind Rainbow Beach township where there is land available.”

“There has been no satisfactory explanation given of why the Bligh government is giving what amounts to a gift to Swiss developer of \$100- \$150 million while ignoring the clear wishes of the local people.”

Reg Lawler
Chairperson
5th March 2009