

Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula

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Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula (CHIP) held a meeting of members and supporters at Rainbow Beach on Thursday night 5th Feb.

The meeting was given a summary of the history of Development Leases on the Inskip Peninsula and Reg Lawler, chairperson of CHIP, passed on the information that he had obtained under the Freedom of Information laws about the proposal to provide a handout to Rainbow Shores of land valued at \$100 - \$150 million in exchange for an expiring lease on land that was not meant for large scale development.

Mr Lawler said that the original proposal for Rainbow Shores Stage 2 was rejected by the people of Rainbow Beach and the FOI documentation revealed that it was not supported by the Gympie Regional Council or the Queensland Government.

“The fact that the Rainbow Shore stage 2 proposal was not approved by the Council and the Government means that it fails as the Development Lease requires that a plan be submitted and approved by both these bodies and this approval is in a separate section from the need to obtain rezoning. According to the lease, Rainbow Shores Stage 2 is already dead and there is no appeal to the Land and Environment Court under this part of the lease.”, Reg Lawler said.

“When the Rainbow Shores lease was divided by the Green Belt, the intention of both the local council and the Queensland government was that the southern lease, Rainbow Shores 1, be part of the town and the northern lease, Rainbow Shores 2, be a resort area. This is reflected in the Council records, “Council envisages a low density, low key, low rise style of ecotourism resort/residential development(s) with significant retention of private and public open space”. Despite this the developer applies for a residential development of 6,500 people and, when this is not supported, wants compensation as if the 6,500 person proposal was reasonable or justified. The remarkable fact is that the Queensland government appear to be willing to give Rainbow Shores 200 Ha of land which will be already zoned for a similar level of development “

The elements of the Inskip Master Plan deliberations was explained to the meeting and the total absence of any consultation with the people most affected, the people of Rainbow Beach, was discussed.

The meeting moved several motions and all were carried unanimously. (motions below)

As the meeting progressed it became very evident that people of Rainbow Beach were concerned that they were not being consulted at all and that their fight against Rainbow Shores 2 had been successful but now it was being reintroduced on some of the same land and similar land and this time they would not be able to make objections to the rezoning or take a case against the rezoning to the Land and Environment Court.

Motions passed

1. That this meeting demands that the Queensland Government extensively consult with residents of Rainbow Beach about the Inskip Peninsula Master Plan. Public meetings and an organised method of fairly assessing community opinion are necessary and an objection period for a Draft Plan will not constitute satisfactory consultation.
2. That this meeting requests that Gympie Regional Council support our application for a proper consultative process and that the Council take action to help ensure that the people most affected, the residents and ratepayers of Rainbow Beach, have a effective voice.
3. That a public meeting be organised with council and government attendance and with a neutral chairperson so that each side of the proposed land handout to Rainbow Shores can put their case to the people of Rainbow Beach
4. That this meeting oppose the land handout as
 - it is bad planning on many grounds
 - it is outside the terms of the original lease and is not necessary
 - it gives a private developer rights over valuable public land in exchange for an expiring lease on land designated for a low key resort and this is a bad deal for the people of Queensland and Rainbow Beach as the lease is of little value.
 - The community loses the Old Mill Site which was bought from a developer so it could be used for community purposes
5. That the proposed land handout is a means of circumventing the rejection of Rainbow Shores Stage 2 by the people of Rainbow Beach, the Gynpie Regional Copuncil and the Queensland Government as the land handout is on the same or similar land as the original Rainbow Shores Stage 2 development and is unacceptable for the same reasons.