

Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula

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The Queensland Government is negotiating a “like for like” swap for land with the developer Rainbow Shores Pty Ltd. Rainbow Shores has had an application lodged with the local council for a development of over 6000 people on the development lease on the northern Inskip Peninsula.

The proposed development does not have Government or Gympie Regional council support and is opposed by the people of the area.

The Development Lease specifically requires the approval of both the Queensland Government and the council. However, rather than requiring Rainbow Shores to prepare another development plan, the Queensland Government has valued the land as if the approvals were granted and is offering to swap the lease on useless land for \$100 million worth of useful land (about 200 hectares).

The developer also demands pre approval on the new site. This would avoid the need for public disclosure of the planning application and prevent the normal input from Gympie Regional Council and the community.

The Queensland Government have formed a working group for the Inskip Peninsula Master Plan and the working group has identified water supply and absorption as a limiting factor in the possible population of the area.

Reg Lawler, Chairperson of Citizens Helping Inskip Peninsula, said that the Freedom of Information data that he had obtained did not make it clear which areas the Queensland Government was considering “giving” to Rainbow Shores. “The Old Mill Site, immediately north of Rainbow Beach township and the “Green Belt” between Rainbow Shores Stage 1 and 2 have been outlined in maps that I have. In addition an area on the western side of the road between the road and the sewerage treatment works has been outlined. I have sent off a further FOI request to make it clear which areas are being offered.”, Reg Lawler said.

The minutes from the Working Group list infrastructure requirements that will be needed on the Master Plan as a sewerage treatment plant, waste transfer station, airstrip, public golf course and Bullock Point boat ramp and jetty.

Reg Lawler said that several factors were very disturbing. “The Government was considering a land swap in early 2007. Why was this secret? The community put in a record number of objections to the proposed development, Rainbow Shores 2. To their credit the local council listened and after the elections told the Queensland Government that they did not support the proposal. In early 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency drafted 23 reasons to refuse the application. Now the Queensland Government is just proposing to move the development onto land that is very similar and then refuse any effective public input.”

“Rainbow Shores has land that is unsuitable for development. When you take on projects you take on risks. Bad luck – perhaps you should have checked before you bought it.. I can not understand why the Labor Party government is giving \$100 million of government land to a developer who made a mistake. I am trying to find out if Rainbow Shores, its principals or its affiliates have made any donations to the Labor Party or its politicians.”, Reg Lawler said.