

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 15/06/2016

FILE: 15062016_001069_EXTENSION_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: Gold Coast, Cruise Ship Terminal

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

Gold Coast, Cruise Ship Terminal

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Gold Coast City Council's feasibility report on three potential sites for a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mayor Tom Tate on his resounding success at the March local government election where he secured 64 per cent of the primary vote. This is an election at which the mayor put the Gold Coast's cruise ship terminal proposal at the front and centre of his campaign. He is now working hard to deliver this key election commitment. Just last week he announced that the council will investigate three potential offshore locations, namely extending the southern seaway rock wall to accommodate a cruise terminal; extending the existing sand pumping jetty near Doug Jennings Park; or, thirdly, constructing a dedicated pier south of Sea World to combine a cruise ship terminal and dive platform. The Gold Coast City Council is considering an offshore or ocean side terminal. This design is based on a pier system that is already being used in popular cruise ship destinations like Costa Maya in Mexico.

As the member for Surfers Paradise and a proud Gold Coast resident, I have always given my in-principle support to the concept of a cruise ship terminal providing that it stacks up environmentally, economically and has community support. This is a project which has the potential to strengthen our standing as the premier tourism destination of Australia whilst maintaining our unique and picturesque city. To achieve this, it is my opinion that this feasibility study should be accompanied by a council master plan for The Spit area incorporating community and stakeholder input, a generation after Vision 2020, which was done nearly a generation ago in 2002. It could deal with issues such as building heights and a plan to resolve traffic congestion issues caused by the bottleneck entrance at Waterways Drive and the narrow single lanes from the Sea World car park north. The master plan would give residents, particularly those in Main Beach, the proper consideration that they deserve with regard to their amenity and other residents of the Gold Coast the certainty of future planning.

Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier, visited the Gold Coast during the 2015 election campaign and announced her only Gold Coast policy: to shut down any plans for a cruise ship terminal. As a response, our constituents answered by electing 10 out of 10 LNP candidates. Despite having majority support, Gold Coasters' pleas for a cruise ship terminal continue to be trampled by a Brisbane-centric Labor government. Brisbane is currently considering a second cruise ship terminal whilst the minister refused to even look at plans that would potentially allow the Gold Coast a share in the cruise ship terminal industry over which Brisbane currently has a monopoly in South-East Queensland.

Unlike the current government, the former LNP government listened to residents of the Gold Coast and committed to investigating the project. It is a growing industry that has had a 30 per cent increase annually over the last 10 years. The mayor himself has publicly stated that if the final design does not meet any environmental impact study conditions he will be the first to rule it out.

It is really important that we have a look at these issues, whether it is about law and order at the Gold Coast or this issue about the cruise ship terminal. Otherwise, we will hang these issues like millstones around the neck of the Labor Party right up until the next election. Annastacia Palaszczuk promised a government of jobs, jobs, jobs. It is a shame that all the Gold Coast has heard from this government is no, no, no.