



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS



MEDIA RELEASE

Great Keppel Island ‘insignificant’: Labor

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has voted to deny the Capricorn Coast an opportunity for a boutique gaming licence to support offshore resort developments like Great Keppel Island.

Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg said, having recently met with local community groups including *Our Keppel Our Future*, he could understand that locals would be disappointed in Keppel MP Brittany Lauga for not standing up for the region.

He said the LNP had moved a motion in Parliament urging the Palaszczuk Labor Government to develop an offshore boutique casino gaming licence policy to encourage investment in job creating developments such as that proposed for Great Keppel Island.

“The LNP is determined to give the Capricorn Coast some certainty and a process around any development on Great Keppel Island, unfortunately the Palaszczuk Labor Government remains frozen at the wheel and determined to keep Great Keppel in deep freeze,” Mr Springborg said.

“With 3,800 jobs lost in the Fitzroy region in the past 12 months, Labor has killed off a chance for job creation in central Queensland and have hung locals out to dry.”

Mr Springborg said the Palaszczuk Labor Government mounted an extraordinary attack against a boutique gaming licence process in Parliament and potentially damaged Great Keppel Island’s reputation in the process.

In a bizarre outburst, Labor Member for Barron River Craig Crawford claimed that allowing Great Keppel Island to introduce a boutique gaming licence would “take away from other centres” because “there is nothing significant about Great Keppel Island that makes them any different to any other island on the Great Barrier Reef.” - **AUDIO ATTACHED**

“It beggars belief that a member of the Palaszczuk Labor Government would launch such a vicious attack against Great Keppel Island, a region that is crying out for jobs,” he said.

“Unlike Mr Crawford, I do not believe that Great Keppel Island is just “an island and nothing else.”

“On my recent visit to the region, it was a privilege to see how passionate locals are for their proposal, which they believe could create 1500 jobs either in the construction stage or ongoing for the people of central Queensland.

“Only the LNP will stand up for Great Keppel and the Capricorn Coast and put in place a sensible process that supports growth and development.”

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