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Brittany Deserts GKI!

by Terry Agnew – Executive Chairman of Tower Holdings



Brittany Lauga in her early support for GKI???

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The Member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga used the Great Keppel Island (GKI) project and her support for a boutique gaming license as a platform for her election campaign in early 2015. In February, 2015 she repeatedly told the Morning Bulletin that GKI would be her first priority that the casino license was critical for the project's success. At the time she also said *"I think that the jobs and local benefits and opportunities proceeding with a small boutique gaming license far outweighs what would happen if we didn't have the development proceed"*. (Brittany Lauga 30/01/2015).

Over the last 12 months the Member for Keppel has pretended to us and the community that she is supportive of GKI and a boutique gaming license (BGL). However, the reality is that these are all *"hollow words"* by someone who is happy to put her political ambitions above what is good for her very own community.

Last night in the State Parliament was her opportunity to prove her trustworthiness and her support for the project. Unfortunately, when it came time for the Parliament to vote for GKI, Brittany turned her back on the project and her region. The parliament voted 43-41 against GKI and Brittany also voted AGAINST GKI. Her single vote has now stopped GKI from commencing.

For some crazy reason that I fail to understand, the Labor party do not believe that Central Queensland deserves an international Integrated Resort Development. Rather, they believe that only Cairns and the Gold Coast should have these projects. Both of these projects are being led by Chinese groups with no proven property development experience in Australia. What does the Government have against Central Queensland and why do they favour Chinese groups over Australian groups?

The Member for Keppel also showed her untrustworthiness in her recent public comments about our meeting last week. I met with her for around two hours and for the majority of this meeting we explained that although the casino would occupy only a small area of the overall development it was *"absolutely essential"* to obtain project finance and to start the project. Rather than relay this message, she intentionally sought to mislead the community by announcing that the casino was not important at all and that we could start the project without it.

I am also extremely disappointed about her insulting and pathetic speech under parliamentary privilege last night. All I can say is that this was absolutely disgraceful considering that I have invested \$50 million into this project already and this is the treatment I get from the sitting member.

How many other people have invested this much money into the region over the last 10 years?

While other regions of Queensland seek to attract investments, the Member for Keppel is doing everything possible to turn away our investment and 1,500 jobs. If this is the ALP policy for treating investors, why would any significant investor want to participate in such a hostile environment?

I hope that the people for Central Queensland let Brittany and the Labor Government know that their party politics should not come above jobs for their region. Brittany has certainly lost our trust and I imagine the trust of much of her electorate.

I will continue to work as hard as ever to get this project started and it would have been much more helpful if the member for Keppel had voted in favour of GKI last night.