

A strong voice for our future

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga eyes bright future for GKI master plan

Brittany Lauga said the community will soon have a firm idea of what Great Keppel Island will look like as the master plan process reaches its conclusion.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister said there had been “really positive” community feedback since the State Government resumed Tower Holdings’ leases from Great Keppel Island on Friday, which has filled her full of confidence for the island’s master plan.

“Finally we have some good news and feel like the island’s future is back in community hands,” she said.

Ms Lauga has attended the many stakeholder engagement processes of the GKI (Wop-pa) Master Plan which is now in its final stages of development.

“Over 50 stakeholders have worked diligently for over 12 months to create a draft master plan for Great Keppel Island and the good news is, it is almost complete with the finishing touches to be done before it can be presented to the community.

“We are almost there, and it is a good draft which now just needs to be refined before the final plan is presented for community feedback,” Ms Lauga said.

“The Department of State Development has been on the island recently and the plan development is moving forward.

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“The stakeholder group who have been developing the draft have all worked together to find the best outcomes for the island.

“At this stage, the group are still working on the complexities of the proposed jetty and fine tuning a few other aspects of the plan.

“It has been quite a challenge to develop a vision that suits a broad spectrum of stakeholders that everyone agrees with, and I commend the members of the stakeholder reference group for the time and effort they have put in to develop such a crucial plan for the island.

“The master plan takes in the needs of the whole island by breaking it down in to precincts to achieve the best outcome.”

Ms Lauga said the Queensland Government committed \$30 million for common-user infrastructure for GKI.

“Work is currently underway to evaluate options for improving access to GKI, which was identified by local stakeholders through the master planning process as the top priority,” she said.

“Investigations are also underway on improvements to sewerage water treatment on Island, also identified as an infrastructure priority.

“The Queensland Government committed to work closely with island stakeholders to facilitate tourism development and deliver the supporting infrastructure that will help grow tourism on the island and generate jobs and expenditure in Central Queensland.

“The master plan will guide the future actions of the community and private investors and present a vision for the future with long term goals and objectives.

“The Queensland Government is also working with the traditional owners of Great Keppel Island, the Woppaburra people to help develop a master plan that will acknowledge and respect the long and ongoing culture, social and environmental values of the Native Title Holders of the Island.”

“The Master planning process will now take the draft master plan to the public for its final polish so that we can soon start work on rehabilitating this valuable and beautiful natural asset that is Great Keppel Island.

“I expect that will take months.”

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