



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

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Media Release **ASF Consultation is still a Sham**

On October 14th Deputy Premier Seeney's Facebook stated that *"I have made it very clear to the proponent ASF and GCCC that the community consultation process they are responsible for conducting needs to be very comprehensive if they are to get the social licence necessary to proceed with this project from our Government"*, but the current round of consultations which must be completed by October 31st demonstrates that ASF Consortium have failed this test.

The Facebook comment further states that the Newspoll community consultation undertaken by ASF in April this year was also patently inadequate and The Spit as a site for development was removed from ASF's grasp because *"we found the proponent could not sufficiently prove community support."*

Lois Levy, Gecko-Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council (Gecko), campaigner said "This discredited Newspoll, that was unacceptable to the Deputy Premier, still forms a major part of the current community consultation due to end this week."

She added "All the forms of "consultation" used by ASF this month are still based on artist's impressions, with no firm plans or reports to provide solid information to those "consulted" so that the community still has no real idea of what they are being consulted about or what the environmental, economic or social impacts would be. Again there is barely a mention of the all-important casino. This is totally unacceptable."

Gecko's discussions with ASF Local Area Manager, Tim Poole, this week demonstrated that the failed Newspoll "consultation" will still form part of ASF's report to Government and was used as the basis for selecting participants in one of the stakeholder groups held last week. This is basically doubling up the figures to pad out a totally inadequate effort at community consultation during October.

The other forms of "consultation" are equally unimpressive and consisted of another stakeholder group of people who self-selected and business groups which apparently yielded between 50-65 people, which can hardly be described as "very comprehensive".

Lois said that "Mr Poole made much of the online survey which is not a feedback on plans, but an attempt to pick the brains of those responding. Presumably the Information Booth that does not provide much information is of the same ilk."

Mr Poole appeared confused about the deadline of 31st October and described a process of ongoing information being dribbled out to the community over the next few months through various forms of media. He then expected interested parties to contact ASF for additional information as there would be no further formal community consultation.

“The whole community consultation process with ASF is a sham and it is to be hoped that the Deputy Premier recognises this and makes the only decision possible and that is to tell ASF to look elsewhere for their integrated resort project and casino.”

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