

## SPIT WRECKED

## Missed by weeks

Election cost  
the Coast  
\$7b project

ANDREW POTTS

THE Newman government was just weeks from approving ASF's \$7 billion Wavebreak Island development when it lost power, Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls has revealed.

Mr Nicholls, who was treasurer in the one-term government, said progress was being made on ASF's plans before the January 31, 2015 election forced the conservatives from power.

"The LNP ran a competitive tender process for new integrated resort developments and ASF was short-listed as part of that process," he said.

"The LNP was on track with plans to make a decision on the resort licence and associated gaming licence in early 2015.

"Appropriate planning and environmental approvals would have followed this process."

ASF's plans for a cruise ship terminal, casino and integrated resort on Wavebreak Island were unveiled publicly in early 2014 and divided the community and political leaders.

It was scrapped in April 2015 by the Palaszczuk Government which, in turn, allowed ASF to go ahead with plans to develop an integrated resort on a 5ha site south of Sea World.

The project is understood to include up to three highrise towers, each well above the three-storey guideline in the council's City Plan.

Mr Nicholls said if returned to government at the next



## WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY:

**SUSAN:** "APART from traffic congestion, already horrific and weekends and holidays, the major issue is keeping The Spit low-rise - along with the lovely Sheraton Mirage, Versace and the Sea World complex. I don't think anyone is saying that the area south of Nara should not be developed - it would lend itself to more tourist accommodation. But let's not confine ourselves to luxury hotels. There is a great need for affordable accommodation as well."

**JUDY:** "THE Spit is already covered by a recently approved City Plan. Highrise buildings will destroy Wavebreak Island and The Spit. Ms Palaszczuk promised to listen to community groups and 60 per cent of people surveyed were against highrise developments along The Spit."

**WILLIAM:** "FROM the start of Sea World would be better. At least we have a start from a Government that seems to back

planned development. Green is good."

**CATHY:** "A TOWN plan that came into effect in February says 3-story height limits south of Sea World. A town plan that took years to formulate and had much community input. So what exactly are the highrise supporters advocating? Ignoring the town plan? So the plan is worthless, then?"

**SLURMS:** "I HAVE no issue with developing the south area if a project has high architectural merit and benefit to the community. I have no issue with them going over three storeys if the design warrants it (eg, if someone plonked the Sydney Opera House there I wouldn't mind, if the Eiffel Tower was there, I wouldn't mind at all), but it should be high-end."

Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls; and an artist's impression of ASF consortium's plans for the Wavebreak Island cruise ship terminal.

## MPS HAVE THEIR SAY

**Surfers MP John-Paul Langbroek:** "It's disappointing calls from locals and business and community leaders to discuss the future of The Spit are being ignored by Labor. That's why I've been advocating for a community-driven master plan."

**Mermaid Beach MP Ray Stevens:** "We need a major coming together of state representatives and local stakeholders to come up with a plan to fix up The Spit for sustainability in traffic and development."

**Burleigh MP Michael Hart:** "They really need a community-driven master plan for The Spit with an integrated traffic management plan."

**Mudgeeraba MP Ros Bates:** "We need a community-driven master plan."

**Gaven MP Sid Cramp:** "Honestly, it is not something I am across and can give a comprehensive answer on."

**Albert MP Mark Boothman:** "I try not to dabble in the electorates of others but I think it comes down to whatever the community wants."

**Currumbin MP Jann Stuckey:** "The premier should engage with the broader community in the development of a master plan and stop stalling."

**Broadwater MP Verity Barton:** "Government needs to work with Gold Coast City Council to deliver a community-driven master plan."

**Southport MP Rob Molhoek:** "We need council to initiate a rigorous process of community consultation and set a clear direction for The Spit's future."

**Coomera MP Michael Crandon:** "The logical way ... would be a master plan."

election, the LNP would "work with the council" to develop a masterplan for the area.

"The Palaszczuk Government should be working with the council to ensure that development is planned in consultation with the community and with the proper environmental approvals," he said.

"The Government needs to make up its mind about whether it supports jobs and development on the Gold Coast in line

with community expectations and environmental approvals, or continue with uncertainty and picking fights with the council and local community leaders."

Ms Palaszczuk yesterday confirmed any masterplan would not allow development north of Sea World.

It comes as prominent business leaders back the push for a Broadwater masterplan to end the uncertainty surround-

ing the peninsula's future.

Gold Coast Cabs chief executive Gordana Blazevic said uncertainty around The Spit needed to be put to rest.

"Absolutely, there must be a masterplan for the area because right now there is so much confusion and so many different interests saying what should, and shouldn't, happen," she said.

"Someone must take a leadership role and commence the

process for a plan which will also create a forum for all views to be considered.

"The way it is being done now is not the way to resolve any issues."

Queensland Master Builders Association chief executive Grant Galvin said certainty would allow for confidence.

"Anything which creates construction opportunities for our members is a good thing," he said.