



An artist's impressions of ASF consortiums plans for the Wavebreak Island.

Coast workers will benefit, says ASF

THE ASF Consortium says it is a myth that all jobs generated by the Gold Coast Integrated Resort and Cruise Ship Terminal will go to foreigners.

Acting local project director John Shepherd said it was also untrue that job applicants would need to speak Chinese to be successful.

Mr Shepherd said the project would deliver 5000 jobs during the 10-year construction phase, which would start in 2017, and the aim was to have a minimum 80 per cent local participation target for direct jobs.

"This will mean significant employment opportunities for Gold Coast locals," he said.

"Once operational, the project will offer many diverse employment opportunities, including roles in business management, human resources, finance, legal, retail, hospitali-

ty, real estate services, the arts, tourism services, recreation services, food services, stevedoring, security and environmental sciences."

When complete 15,200 new direct and indirect jobs would be created as part of ongoing operations, he said.

Mr Shepherd said it was also a myth that the State Government was allowing ASF to proceed with the proposal.

"The project is subject to a Request for Detailed Proposal process, as set out by the State Government, and will ultimately be evaluated by both the State Government and Gold Coast City Council.

"ASF Consortium submitted a detailed proposal to the State Government in October 2014 and this is being assessed."

Mr Shepherd said a decision

was expected in 2015, and if approved the project would also be subject to rigorous environmental assessment and approval processes before any construction could begin.

Suggestions that ASF had had limited consultation with the community were wrong, he said. ASF had engaged with thousands of residents since the middle of October.

Communication activities included an online community benefit survey, community focus groups and presentations, stakeholder feedback groups and the creation of a new website with weekly updates.

Mr Shepherd also cited the opening of a project information centre at Southport, a mobile information centre and media activity.

To have your say on the project, go to goldcoastevolution.com.au

SOSA defends speakers

LAURA NELSON

LAURA.NELSON@NEWS.COM.AU

THE Save Our Spit Alliance has angrily rejected claims by the ASF Consortium that speakers at a recent rally perpetuated "myths" about the controversial Broadwater project.

SOSA president Steve Gration said the ASF team had clearly not listened to speakers at the rally, which attracted more than 3000 people.

"We have never claimed 20m dredging depths but rather 13m, increasing to 15m, as vessels increase in size in the future," Mr Gration said.

The ASF also had never addressed the fact that every engineering report since 1986, when the seaway walls were constructed, stated they were not engineered to have channel depths greater than 4.5m, he said.

"Areas of the seaway channel have naturally scoured to 12m-15m in depth since 1986.

"That is why sections of the southern seaway wall are collapsing and hand rails have been put up to deter the public from venturing on to those sections."

Mr Gration said SOSA also did not claim that Wavebreak had already been sold to the Chinese market.

"We pointed out that in ASF's 2014 annual report, which is available online, they clearly state that this is their intention."

Mr Gration said the report stated it was ASF's intention to offer significant investment visas as a part of Chinese real estate 'investments' in Australia or Australian residency visas with the purchase of Wavebreak real estate.

"Their annual report also reveals that the ASF Group is a penny-share company with limited liquidity and a dubious



Wavebreak Island from the air.

book profit of \$900,000 for the last financial year.

"They appear to be a front for the China state-owned engineering and dredging companies named as their 'major partners'."

Finally, Mr Gration said bird expert and rally speaker Bob Westerman did not claim Wavebreak was a major migratory bird roost.

"He clearly stated it was Curlew Island, south of Wavebreak, that was the location where internationally-protected migratory birds were roosting.

"This is right where ASF wants to put their bird-spotting cafe in addition to Carter Bank (north of Wavebreak) where ASF wants to build their exclusive Moon Island."

Commenting about the consortium's community consultation claims, Mr Gration said these were a farce and he was concerned the public was being misinformed in the ASF's latest campaign.

"The young public relations people on ASF's showroom floor at Broadwater Park recently told Lois Levy, of Gecko, and SOSA's Phil Hoile there would be 'no need to dredge a channel out to sea beyond the seaway walls to accommodate cruise ship visits'.

"This is a lie as no cruise company would contemplate coming near the Gold Coast without an established, safe and constantly maintained outer channel at least 1km out to sea from the seaway walls."