

Terminal 'redundant', says pilot

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ONE of the state's most experienced maritime pilots has slammed the Broadwater Marine Project for proposing a "two-star-port".

Captain Paul Matthews, who has spent more than 36 years navigating large ships through dangerous or congested water, says the ASF consortium is looking to build a "redundant" terminal.

"Ships longer than 300m

will find entering the Seaway very difficult," he said.

"This means ships like the *Queen Elizabeth* or the *Queen Mary 2* will not be able to come to the Gold Coast.

"The Chinese developers will just be ripping up the area to build a two-star-port, which will be redundant by the time the project is completed."

Mr Matthews said the ASF consortium should build an offshore terminal to attract the world's biggest ships.

"If we are going to do this we need to do it right," he said.

"Cruise companies are building bigger ships every day and we should be looking to cater for them.

"I want to see a five-star-terminal built offshore.

"We need to respect that people do not want to see the environment damaged and recognise that there is a better way of doing this."

ASF Consortium project director Allan Fife confirmed the proposed ter-

terminal would not cater for "super cruise ships".

"We have spoken to the major operators who account for over 70 per cent of current cruise ships and they are confident everything we have proposed is viable," he said.

"We are capable of taking the 310m boats and not many boats exceed that length.

"We are after the 240m market, which accounts for the majority of vessels. We are clearly very confident about the project."

The ASF Group changed the location of its planned terminal from the Seaway to Wavebreak Island after council asked it consider an alternative location.

Council recently voted nine to six "to support the continued application of due process" on the ASF consortium's development.

The State Government will now formally assess the project on factors including economic benefit and environmental impact.