



Great Keppel Island
REVITALISATION PLAN

EIS UPDATE

Environmental Impact Statement Community Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the GKI Revitalisation Plan Community Newsletter. The project newsletters will be regularly distributed to the community and various stakeholders and updated on the project website to inform people of the status of the environmental approvals and consultation activities.

You will also be kept up to date with Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) activities on and off the Island including community consultation, scientific investigations, stakeholder briefings and planning activities.

You can receive the newsletter electronically by registering on the GKI Revitalisation Plan website www.gkiresort.com.au or www.cqenviro.com.au. Alternatively you can contact the Project Team to receive the newsletter in hardcopy. Each edition of the newsletters will be accessible through the project website.

The Project Team want to keep the community informed about the Plan, the process and the activities being undertaken during the EIS. If you have questions relating to the Plan or any component of it, please don't hesitate to contact the Project Team through any of the methods provided in this newsletter.

What is the GKI Revitalisation Plan?

GKI Resort Pty Ltd (proponent) proposes to develop a new tourism resort on Great Keppel Island (GKI) in Central Queensland. The proposal is a staged project expected to take between 10 to 15 years to complete.

GKI has an area of over 1,400 hectares and is located within the Keppel Island group, approximately 12 kilometres off the coast of Yeppoon on the Central Queensland coast. Great Keppel Island is located within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The main components of the proposed new resort include:

- a low-rise hotel at Fisherman's Beach;
- a safe marine facility at Putney Beach comprising ferry landing, retail village with a mix of cafes, restaurants, shops and safe moorings for 250 berths;
- 18 hole golf course located on the original sheep farm;
- an upgraded airstrip;
- the creation of 545 hectares of environmental protection areas;
- 750 low rise eco-villas;
- and 300 low rise eco-apartments.

The final master plan for the resort will be prepared after the environmental, social, engineering, planning and cultural heritage consultants have completed the constraints mapping for the Island.



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

The GKI Revitalisation Plan will have to be approved through both the State Government's State Development and Public Works Organisation Act (SDPWO Act) and the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

Both of these Acts require the production of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which identifies the existing environmental, social and cultural values and reports on the potential impacts of the proposed development on those values. The approval process will also consider the commitments to protect these values made by the proponent in its Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The content of the EIS is stipulated by the Terms of Reference (TOR) issued by the State Government and the Guidelines prepared by the Australian Government. These documents prescribe what needs to be studied and reported on.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a technical document that assesses the feasibility of a project by conducting thorough scientifically, robust studies of potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts, and proposes feasible ways to manage them. The EIS should demonstrate that the project will be based on sound environmental protection and management criteria.

Information provided by the proponent in response to the TOR allows government to make a decision on whether to approve the development and if so under what conditions.



We are keen to work with CQ University, NRM groups and Capricorn Conservation Council to ensure the EIS considers valuable, existing data and research.

Key Consultants Engaged

Key consultants have now been confirmed as part of the Project Team that will undertake the EIS for the GKI Revitalisation Plan.

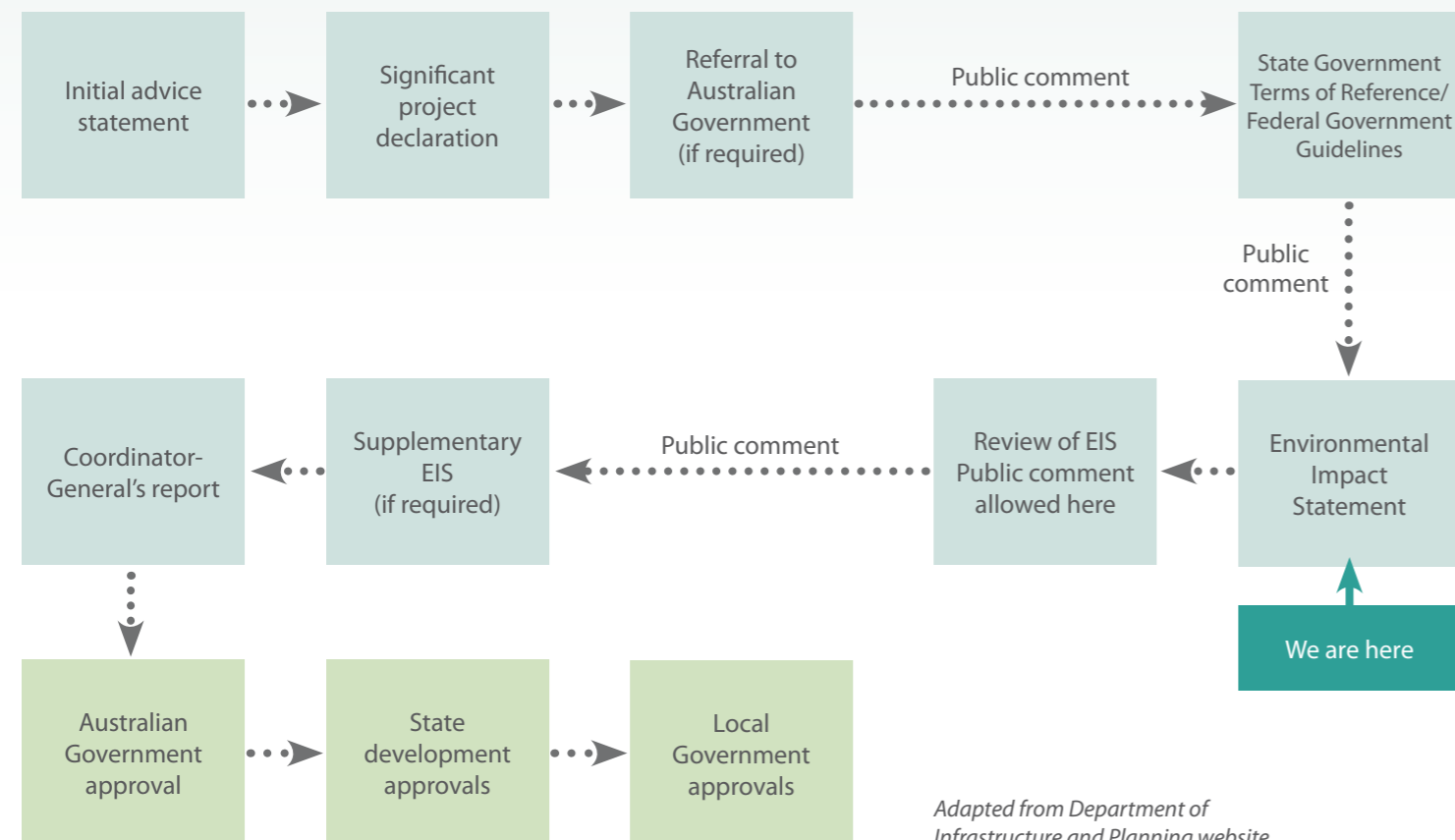
Specialist consultants have been engaged to undertake the intensive process of investigations for the EIS. GKI Resort Pty Ltd thoroughly researched each consultancy and have carefully selected expert firms with a reputation for excellence in their fields. Key to the selection process was the decision by the proponent to engage specialised firms for the individual components of the EIS rather than engaging a single large multi-national firm to undertake the full EIS.

The EIS will be coordinated by local Central Queensland firm CQ Consulting Group (CQ Environmental). CQ Consulting Group will also undertake a number of the scientific studies and manage the comprehensive Community Consultation program for the Plan.

- The EIS Project Team also includes:
- Humphreys Reynolds Perkins - *Statutory Planning and EIS Compilation,*
 - WATG - *Masterplanning Architects,*
 - FRC Environmental - *Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality,*
 - Chenoweth Environmental Planning - *Terrestrial Flora, Fauna, World Heritage and Visual Impact,*
 - OPUS Engineering - *Engineering and Infrastructure,*
 - Water Technology - *Coastal Engineering,*
 - Douglas Partners - *Geotechnical and Groundwater,*
 - ASK Consulting - *Air Quality, Greenhouse, Noise and Vibration,*
 - Converge - *Cultural Heritage,*
 - ImpaxSIA - *Social Impact Assessment,*
 - Foresight Partners - *Economic Assessment, and*
 - SMR Advertising and Generate PR - *Public Relations.*

Additional specialists and independent agencies will be progressively involved to undertake peer review as the EIS advances.

The EIS Process



Adapted from Department of Infrastructure and Planning website.

Community Consultation

There are a number of opportunities for public input throughout the environmental impact assessment process.

Statutory requirements for public input for this EIS include:

- A period of 10 business days when the EPBC Act referral was lodged on 1 June 2010 to the then Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and placed on DEWHA's website;
- A period of 40 business days on the draft EIS guidelines; and
- A public comment period following the submission of the EIS to the State & Federal Governments.

In October 2010 over 40 representatives from all levels of government visited the Island with GKI Resort Pty Ltd and it's

key consultants to inspect the Island and discuss the Plan with the Project Team. This was followed up by a presentation in Rockhampton to over fifty interested government officers and businesses and a further meeting with officers in Brisbane.

There is now sufficient baseline information on the environmental values of the Island to ramp up the community consultation phase of the GKI Revitalisation Plan.

Well known social scientist Annie Holden of ImpaxSIA has been engaged to work with CQ Consulting Group to prepare the Community Consultation Plan for the EIS. The roll-out of the Plan will see one on one interviews with Island residents, Island businesses and key stakeholders, focus groups meetings with key areas of interest (business, conservation and tourism / recreation) and telephone interviews with other identified stakeholders.

Community consultation activities have commenced with the preparation of this newsletter and fact sheets, establishment of a 1800 telephone line (1800 755 415) and an email account for enquiries (gkieis@cqenviro.com.au). A shop front will open on in February at 21 East Street where you can pop in between 1pm and 3.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and from 7.30am to 9am Tuesdays and Thursdays to find out more about the Plan and the progress of the EIS.



What's next?

- Release of the State Government's Final Terms of Reference and the Federal Government's Final Guidelines (expected February 2011) will provide the full scope for detailed studies and consultation.
- Static information display to open from in February 2011 at 21 East Street Rockhampton.
- Undersea survey work to be completed in April 2011.
- Survey of Leeke's homestead by historic specialists from Converge.
- Project Team to develop a Constraints Map to identify areas on the Island that could be suitable for development.

DISCLAIMER

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What has been happening?

- Scientists have been conducting studies on water quality, aquatic flora and fauna, wave currents, terrestrial flora and fauna, migratory birds, groundwater and soils since Spring 2010;
- Background research has commenced on all the above study areas plus cultural heritage (indigenous and non-indigenous), land contamination, world heritage values, statutory planning and social values;
- A Land Management Plan is being prepared for Lot 21 for review by the Department of Environment and Resource Management;
- The Project Team have been meeting fortnightly to progress the background research and field surveys;
- Core members of the project team have been meeting regularly with government agencies to ensure their studies meet the government's expectations; and
- A Community Consultation Plan has been prepared and the website is being updated.



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To find out more

1800 755 415
gkieis@cqenviro.com.au

Visit the shop front display at
21 East Street, Rockhampton

www.gkiresort.com.au

(Information about the project, the developer or to register interest)

www.cqenviro.com.au

(Information about the EIS approval process or to have your say)