

GKI Revitalisation Plan seeks support to undertake Environmental Impact Statement

The Great Keppel Island (GKI) Revitalisation Plan team has this week submitted a referral to the Australian Government to seek approval from Minister Peter Garrett to declare the project a “controlled action” under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. If declared this will allow the project team to undertake a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the GKI Revitalisation.

The EIS studies will identify the environmental, social, economic and cultural heritage values of the Island and surrounding marine waters to inform the design team and the developer on how to best avoid impacts on these values. Comprehensive field surveys will be supported by literature reviews, modelling and consultation with the community.

An EIS (which has to be conducted by qualified specialists) typically takes from 6 months to 12 months to complete. The EIS specialists will work with conservation, business, community and traditional owner groups to ensure the appropriate conservation and protection measures are included in the GKI Revitalisation Plan.

“Conservation and environmental groups as well as the Central QLD people will undoubtedly be supportive of the undertaking of an EIS as it provides a factual database on which to best plan the future of the Island.” Patrice Brown, Director CQ Environmental.

“The Revitalisation Plan is committed to the long term sustainability of GKI and the goal to become an international benchmark in sustainable tourism design.” Anthony Aiossa, GKI Pty Ltd.

“Key to this vision is first to understand the Island as best we possibly can and design the layout and proposed operations around the protection of these values,” said Mr Aiossa.

Environmental legislation associated with protection of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is very stringent. The development of the old resort on GKI did not require the same level of environmental safeguards that are currently required by all levels of government and the community today.

The EIS including the community consultation program will be managed by local specialist firms ensuring opportunities for input from our local region. Consultation throughout the EIS period will be extensive and will engage with any interested party ranging from conservation groups to residents and day-trippers willing to share their aspirations.

ENDS

For more Information

Rae Hobbs
P: 0412 422 006
E: rae@frankmc.com.au