

Cheryl Watson

From: "Cheryl Watson" <cheryl.watson5@bigpond.com>
Date: Sunday, 21 July 2013 2:06 PM
To: "Jan And Karen Arens" <arens@isage.net.au>
Subject: Fwd: GHHP

For your info
 Cheryl

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cheryl Watson <cheryl.watson5@bigpond.com>
Date: 7 May 2013 2:37:21 PM AEST
To: Heather Richards <HeatherRichards@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: GHHP

Sent from my iPad

Hi Heather,

As I was not able to make comment or ask questions at the meeting on the 1st May, 2013 would it be possible please to pass on the following thoughts from notes I took at the meeting:

First of all I was very disturbed by Minister Seeneys comment on the news that "the process was fine but communication needs to be improved".

If GHHP is to be a genuine independent identity which therefore gives an independent report we have to go into the process with as opened a mind as possible. I therefore am uncomfortable with Minister Seeneys statement. Are we being used to tick a box, has the conclusion already been made and are we going to make any difference to the outcome in the long run or will it be business as usual?

While the economy has to grow, if environmental consideration is not genuinely taken into account and put on the same level of importance as the economy, the future generations will pay not only environmentally but economically as well.

We keep hearing that we have "world's best standards". First of all, how do I know that, where can I go to see for myself, that it states by international bodies that we do?

Minister Seeneys stated that Gladstone will be developed to its full potential. Surely in 2013 that can be achieved without the total destruction of the environs of Gladstone Harbour. Is the Government genuinely looking at the sort of place Gladstone will be in the future. Will it be a place that the average person will want to live, raise their children and retire or will it simply be a very large fly-in, fly-out centre. At the same time that Mr Seeneys talks about the Gladstone Harbour he is hell bent on developing other areas along the coast. Does the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef have any bearing on the Governments actions? Do the people whose jobs depend on the GBRWHA not count?

We hear that the Gladstone Harbour is the most monitored harbour in the world, but once again I must ask the question who says. We know that you basically achieve the result you want by what terms of reference etc you put on a process. If worlds best practice was used, we would not have had a leaking bung wall and we would not have back hoe dredged mud flats that had natural acid sulphate soil as well as mud flats that had years of industrial waste mixed in with it.

I am concerned with the voting within GHHP, as it states that Industry will have a third, Government a third and the community has a third. I believe the process would be more equitable if Industry and Government had 50% and Community had 50%. Within that community section there should be 50% for the environment.

With the independent Panel will the research and raw data be available to qualified environmentalists? Who owns the rights to this research? I am also concerned that the study on the harbour ecosystems is being based on current times, however we know that the ecosystems have been changed within the last few years.

Has the research of the scientist doing the research on dolphins in Keppel Bay been included. If not why not. I am under the impression he has been studying the Gladstone Dolphins as well.

We hear things like "the modelling we have done shows that everything will be fine". From my experience not everything that works on paper works in real life.

If the panel finds that Gladstone really cannot handle any more industry is the panel going to state that? Will the Government listen?

If surveys are carried out these are some of the questions that should be asked - how long have you lived in Gladstone, where did you come from, what are your hobbies, do you use the harbour as recreation and how long do you intend to stay? We know that the long term Gladstone residents, many of whom have left, have a different view to new comers.

Thanking you,
Cheryl Watson
Treasurer Gladstone Conservation Council

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