Dear Minister,

I am writing to you today about the Hummock Hill Island development which has been proposed for our area since at least the 1990's. The project has been sold to various developers over time, and the current proposal continues to have no legs.

There are any number of resort developments up and down the Old Coast in severe financial trouble or literally in ruins. To then think that such a development (a greenfield one) would be advantageous to the Old
economy seems to me to be a bit of a stretch.

In any case, Hummock Hill Island is one of the few relatively undeveloped islands remaining in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Unfortunately, there are almost no enforceable protections for such areas.

Recently, the local Council rejected the development for a number of valid reasons such as the Council having to pay for infrastructure and the fact that the development would unfairly compete with existing businesses in 1770/Anges Water.

At that point the Infrastructure Minister stepped in and has sent the
decision to the Coordinator-General at the Dept of State Development. Having spoken this morning to the Department I understand that there is now no mechanism for public input into the decision, no opportunity for Council to have input, and no mechanism for appeal by anyone.

This is a fundamental problem with democracy - the decision made by our duly elected representatives can be overridden by an unelected bureaucrat with no local connections or knowledge of the context. This decision is not subject to any form of review judicial or otherwise.

The ratepayers will be forced to
I pray for a development which is destined for failure, and a large section of State-owned land will be turned over to private hands at far less than market value.

Such a waste, because really, that area ought to become a National Park to preserve it for future generations.

One more thing—there’s another reason why that area is unpopulated. Sandflies. It’s so thick with them that the “boys” going fishing in the area ensure long pants, long sleeves, and industrial strength insect repel agents are the order of the day, and even then they come back bitten to bits.
It doesn't seem like the best location for a golf course, does it?

Of course, we will keep you informed as to developments, but it would be great if you could get the Environment Department to think about how to deal with this kind of planning process which replaces democracy with the decision of a single person.

Yours Sincerely

Anna Hitchcock

Gladstone Conservation Council