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Extension of Tower's GKI lease: more bad news for Lot 21

In yet another twist, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has granted a one year extension to Tower Holdings over the Lot 21 lease on Great Keppel Island. Lot 21 consisting of 875 hectares is currently leased to Tower Holdings as a Recreation Lease. There are conditions attached to this lease which include control of noxious weeds.

“Since acquiring this lease some years ago, Tower Holdings has done absolutely nothing to comply with these conditions.” said Capricorn Conservation Council’s Vice-President, Ian Herbert.

“Given the 12 month extension to the lease there is now a golden opportunity for Tower Holdings to actually DO SOMETHING about the poor state of environmental management of Lot 21. In its own Initial Advice Statement, Tower Holdings even referred to the proliferation of weeds on Lot 21.

“There is nothing particularly mysterious about weed control,” said Mr Herbert, “You do not need to sit down and write a whole of island weed and pest management plan in order to get started. Many local landholders are successfully tackling weeds on properties much larger than Lot 21. All it needs is a degree of determination and perseverance, qualities that we are told are evident in the managers of Tower Holdings.”

“Active weed control would give Tower Holdings environmental brownie points, and should provide an opportunity to employ local labour. Tower Holdings has made great claims about its environmental credentials, but we are yet to see any evidence of this.”

“CCC is also calling on DERM to ensure that Tower Holdings complies with its lease conditions. For the state government to simply stand by and let Great Keppel Island deteriorate further for another twelve months is completely unacceptable.” Mr Herbert said.

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