



Great Keppel Island Public Comments Invited on EIS Terms of Reference

Great Keppel Island's future will come under close public scrutiny with the announcement this weekend of the public consultation period for deciding the Terms of Reference for the environmental impact assessment. The Terms of Reference identifies the issues to be addressed by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared by Tower Holdings and their consultants.

Capricorn Conservation Council Coordinator, Michael McCabe, said today, "Everyone interested in Great Keppel will have an opportunity to play their part in ensuring the island's natural beauty is maintained and enhanced. Because of the scale of Tower Holding's GKI Resort proposal, the public will have 40 days, instead of the usual 20, to comment on the tailored Terms of Reference for the EIS."

"CCC supports the appropriate re-development of the existing resort area, subject to the full range of environmental controls. We are opposed to dredging and marina construction in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, public leasehold land being handed over for large real estate villas and destruction of bushland for a golf course." Mr McCabe said

"The EIS will be a joint assessment by federal environment and state development departments, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This is required because the proposal impacts on such a wide range of environmental acts and zonings, including Marine Parks and World Heritage listed areas," Mr McCabe said. Printed copies of the EIS Terms of Reference documents will be available at town libraries and regional council offices or via the web; <http://www.environment.gov.au>.
