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Media Release

Tower's glossy GKI brochures hide serious environmental problems

While Tower is going great guns at promoting their Great Keppel Island Resort Rejuvenation Plan widely within the community, Capricorn Conservation Council urges residents and those interested in the development to be cautious. Behind the glossy brochures with eco-friendly, low impact villas and the talk of endless jobs and summers in the sun, are serious environmental problems.

CCC spokesperson, Janet Barrett, says 'We have told Tower Holdings that we would really like to see the existing resort area redeveloped so that tourists can once again step off the boat in numbers and locals can enjoy the facilities and beauty of the island. But we appeal to the community to look behind the glitz and hype of the current plans and ask questions about such issues as the island's groundwater supply, and dredging for the marina.'

'The reality is that many bores on the island have already been pumped beyond their sustainable rate and have had seawater intrusion. They are so contaminated that they can't even be used for irrigating a golf course,' says Ms Barrett. 'We live in a dry climate - dams are not the answer and water tanks would be insufficient. Desalination is expensive and energy-intensive, and a pipe from the mainland is simply unrealistic.'

According to CCC, another environmental concern is the shallowness of Putney Beach the preferred location of a 560 berth marina. 'Our research shows that this area normally ranges around 0.8 to 0.9 metres in depth - extremely shallow. The amount of ongoing dredging needed to maintain a large marina at this location will be very costly and potentially degrading to the fringing reefs located nearby.'

CCC welcomes the EIS process and the environmental studies that Tower will need to undertake to satisfy regulatory and legislative requirements.

For further information contact CCC on (07) 4927 8644