

SAVE OUR FORESHORE INC. MEDIA RELEASE

NO NEED FOR ANOTHER MARINA 10 December 2013

With the latest announcement in the almost 30 year saga of a proposed marina development in Shute Harbour, Minister Seeney has failed to respond to legislation that requires the proof of need for the marina development on public foreshore and World Heritage seabed in Shute Harbour, says President of Whitsunday community group Save our Foreshore Suzette Pelt.. “Amongst many other criteria which have not been met, need is a core criteria for approval”.

In announcing the virtual approval of this development, Mr Seeney has also ignored the genuine concerns of hundreds of local people who made written objections to the commercial development which includes, along with many hectares of reclaimed and storm surge vulnerable land for housing, several 4 and 5 story residential and commercial buildings lining the shoreline.

“We have two marinas under development in Airlie Beach which is the hub of tourism and boating activity. One marina development is still in receivership. There are some 5000 house lots approved for development on the Whitsunday coast along with several years supply of apartments, so it is very hard to see why the region should risk so much when there is no need”. Suzette Pelt says.

“Marina developments and particularly those that require massive dredging and construction for cyclonic conditions have a track record of financial failure. All the evidence is there, from North Queensland to the Gold Coast, their record speaks for themselves. They open a Pandoras box of problems. This Government has learned nothing from the Hinchinbrook disaster”.

“Let’s get our existing marinas, shops and restaurants full and profitable before even considering the need to put massive commercial development in Shute. Tourists can go anywhere in the world and see concrete, high-rises and marinas, but there is only one naturally beautiful Shute Harbour”.

“Some people may think this is a fabulous development for the Whitsundays but once they get the full picture, the reality is far from that. For example, for fishermen it means the loss of a protected fish breeding habitat and mangroves; for inner islands and resorts it will bring deterioration in water quality and for the area’s tourists the loss of stunningly scenery as you round the corners and the vistas of islands and rain forested hills come into view”.

SOF also collected some 2500 petition signatures during the latest revival of the proposal.

For more information please contact:
Suzette Pelt, President
P O Box 59, Airlie Beach QLD 4802 Tel: 0419 768 195
saveourforeshore@whitsunday.net.au
www.saveourforeshore.com

Save Our Foreshore is an association registered under the Incorporated Association Act. It is a community organisation created by citizens of the community of Whitsunday having a particular interest in ensuring that public access to the coast and amenity of coastal public lands are preserved and enhanced for the long term benefit of their ecological, scenic and recreational values as enjoyed by the Whitsunday community and visitors to the area