
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 March 2022 8:08 AM
To: Transport and Resources Committee
Subject: Great Keppel Island - a world first 3 day disabled friendly walking/wheeling track?

Submission for future of Great Keppel Island.

Made by Lyndie Malan, Resident, Great Keppel Island.

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Signed by me Lyndie Malan.

Daytime telephone number [REDACTED]

A WORLD FIRST UNIQUE IDEA

We do NOT need another “Luxury Resort with Marina and Golf Course for Society’s already over-catered for Rich” – they are everywhere on the planet in various stages of financial breakdown and collapse - there are miles of them – all empty and in various stage of dereliction, in many countries of the world, Asian countries like Vietnam and here in Australia – dotted along the Queensland coast.

Great Keppel Island is the jewel in the crown of the Australian East Coast. It has wonderful wildlife, forests, pristine beaches and coral reefs. It is the perfect place to do something unique for tourism and Australia. I live on Great Keppel Island and know the island well. I am also a keen walker – having done about two dozen multi-day walking/tramping walks in Africa, Australia and New Zealand. I have never found the perfect track to share with my disabled friend Mike, though heaven knows we’ve tried. Mike and I went camping in the Northern Rivers area in NSW about 5 years ago. We couldn’t find any rainforest or wild tracks to wheel along. Camping sites were a nightmare with poor access, and simple things, like extended table tops for Mike to wheel his chair under were nowhere to be found.

I kept thinking – if only there was a place with nice timber decks, where Mike could roll his chair up to and bum out onto the deck, where we could pitch tents and he could be out of the sand, but still camping. If only there were fairly narrow – but wheelchair wide enough - tracks to beaches – then we could have a grand adventure camping together. Somewhere to cook and sit at night. Maybe a Flying fox into the ocean? Maybe a beach mat to wheel into the water? The possibilities are endless.

Developers have long eyed off Great Keppel Island, with plans to cut it up and sell it off to billionaires as Mansion/villa residential plots, with marina for superyachts and golf fairway where our beautiful small mahogany forest now grows.

Now is the perfect time to lobby hard to save Great Keppel Island from anyone/government wishing to destroy the beautiful island and make it even less accessible for normal Australian families, in favour of the mega-rich of the world.

My Keppel Island Dream:

This is what I'd like to see for Great Keppel Island - a world class first ever disabled friendly 3 day Great Walk, to rival the Milford Sound Great Walk, and others - except disabled friendly. Something for the

normal Aussie family, not just a rich man's resort/suburb. A vision for the everyman, not just the mega-rich greedy.

There is a worldwide need and demand for this - it could be a world's first and REALLY put GKI on the map - like the "Milford Sound Great Walk" did for New Zealand.

I would specifically target disabled children and adults, not so much mountain bikers, who can fly down any dirt rubble road. I like mountain bikes and greatly admire their skills - I sat for an entire morning watching them come down the tracks near the cable-car in Queenstown NZ. But there are disabled folks out there who have longed to go camping all their lives - and they are fit - but they need a wheel-friendly track. Disabled folks and organisations could design one - (I would love to be part of the design, as I know the island well), with disabled friendly campsites. For very little extra cost, you can build tables, loos, and camp decks that cater for wheelies - and it is not that difficult. I know the island well and would be happy to help in any way necessary.

And it is not that difficult to control cyclers who would be welcome to use the track, as long as they keep it safe for others - also not hard - simple devices mean you have to go slow at blind corners and stop often to continue.

I would love to further discuss my dream with anyone who feels able to add to it. All excellent plans begin with a dream.

Sincerely

Lyndie Malan,
Resident,
[REDACTED] Great Keppel Island.

