

13 April 2022

To: The Transport and Resources Committee

Trc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks of Queensland island resorts

We write in response to the Committee's request for submissions to the above-named inquiry. This short submission focuses particularly on the Cape York Land Council (CYLC) comments on the issue nominated in your line item:

'How the determination of native title and the aspirations of traditional owners have been incorporated into operations.'

The island resorts of Cape York include Lizard Island, Haggerston Island, Albany Island, and possible plans for a future resort on Restoration Island. Native title has not as yet been determined on these islands and the surrounding seas, but it is anticipated that native title will be determined as sea claims along Cape York, currently underway or in the pipeline, progress.

As a general comment, there is much room for improvement in how the aspirations of Traditional Owners are incorporated into the operations of these resorts. We anticipate that as native title is determined, and land areas are transferred to Aboriginal land and consequently Traditional Owners re-establish their presence in land and sea areas the engagement between these resorts and Traditional Owners will increase considerably. This engagement must be anticipated early, and positive and productive relationships established as a matter of priority.

Some specific matters in relation to the island resorts include:

- The unauthorised conduct of activities by resort staff and patrons in culturally sensitive areas, including on the mainland in the region of the resorts;
- The future of a lease on Restoration Island on which a resort has been proposed, but never developed. It should be noted that the Traditional Owners of Restoration Island, the Kuku Yau people, have long sought this lease for economic development;
- Tourism operations in the Cape York area being conducted on tenures that don't authorise such activities; and
- The need for engagement with Traditional Owners on Lizard Island, which is primarily national park. The park will be transferred to National Park (Cape York Aboriginal Land) when the State Land Dealings process is finalised. It will then be jointly managed between Traditional Owners and the Department of Environment, yet to date there has been little engagement with Traditional Owners.

Please contact Mr Terry Piper on [REDACTED] if you have any questions or want further information.

Yours sincerely



Terry Piper
Acting Chief Executive Officer