




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gold Coast Cruise Ship Terminal

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.03 pm): It certainly seems to be my day. I want to raise a matter of ongoing concern in relation to the proposal by the ASF Consortium in relation to what, in a policy decision of the former government, should have been a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast. Over the past three months there have been events unfolding, including, of course, the suspension of this project by the Labor government, creating angst and confusion for those on the Gold Coast, those involved in the consortium and those looking for jobs on the Gold Coast. Of course, it should be no surprise to anyone that an ALP government would cause angst for anyone wanting to see this state advance in any way, shape or form.

The original proposal put forward in relation to the Gold Coast was that a cruise ship terminal would be built at the Gold Coast—not a casino, not a resort, but a cruise ship terminal. The LNP government in good faith, working with the mayor of the Gold Coast, said, 'We will help facilitate that by going through the proper environmental impact statement process, the proper assessment process, and we will work with you to facilitate a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast to take advantage of the burgeoning cruise ship industry.' So for a period of 18 months to two years we worked with the consortium. I would have to say that there were occasions when we were at odds with the consortium about what needed to happen. They did not get it all their own way, but we were progressing very solidly I think, particularly in the last six months of 2014, to a situation where a very solid proposal may well have been able to be put forward to the government. That was taking into account the concerns of local residents. Local state members were obviously given an opportunity to have a say. In that respect, I particularly note the member for Broadwater. A proper consideration was put in place with all the proper probity around it as well.

Now what do we see? We see a Labor government elected and, in an immediate act of kowtowing to its deals with the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and all of their other greenie mates, it immediately suspended the development. Now, what is the Labor government talking about? On Wednesday morning we heard the weasel words of the Minister for Infrastructure, who talked about an integrated resort development. It was never going to be an integrated resort development with a casino. That was never the policy proposal; it was a cruise ship terminal to deliver benefits. The minister talked about trying to identify another site on the Gold Coast at the Southport Spit. He said that he is going to offer it to the ASF Consortium to develop an integrated resort and a casino, but he does not say what the probity obligations are there.

How can the self-confessed 'king of probity', the member for Stafford, stand there and say that he is just going to transfer a completely different proposal to the ASF Consortium without properly investigating the other alternatives? We have here a selling out of the Gold Coast by the member for Stafford.

Ms Grace: You would know all about selling out.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the comment and the interjection by the member for Brisbane Central and I ask that she withdraw.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw.