




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Spit Master Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): When the Palaszczuk Labor government started the master planning process for the Southport Spit 18 months ago, we said that we wanted to strike the right balance for the Gold Coast. We wanted to protect the local environment and community values and pave the way for more local jobs. We wanted to turn conflict into consensus and by doing so trigger business investment in this much loved part of our state. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government has achieved with the final Spit Master Plan.

Last month, I joined the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the member for Gaven and leaders from Village Roadshow at Sea World to announce \$145 million of new public and private sector investment in The Spit. This investment includes \$60 million from the Palaszczuk government to begin implementing The Spit Master Plan, \$50 million from Village Roadshow for its new Atlantis precinct, including some of the best new theme park rides in the Southern Hemisphere, and a \$35 million contribution from the City of Gold Coast for transport and access improvements.

The government's \$60 million will be invested in job-creating projects that deliver improved public amenity and enhance the tourism experience. Projects identified in the master plan that will now be implemented include improvements to parklands and green areas, an underwater diving and snorkelling attraction, better boating facilities and parking and new boardwalks.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DICK: These projects and more have the potential to create an estimated 1,800 jobs—that is right, member for Southport: 1,800 jobs—during the life of The Spit Master Plan improvement project and we expect 800 additional short-stay rooms to be made available in the years ahead. For the benefit of the member for Southport, I point out that that is \$60 million of new public investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government in this year's budget to support the implementation of The Spit Master Plan—\$60 million more than the LNP ever invested in The Spit. For employment, for the economy, for the Gold Coast and for Queensland, these are, without doubt, great outcomes.

The master plan has created a climate of certainty for business, ushering in an exciting new era of private investment for the region. In fact, Village Roadshow Theme Parks' CEO Clark Kirby said that the company had the confidence to make its substantial multimillion dollar investment because of the certainty delivered by the master plan.

The Gold Coast is one of Queensland's most important tourism destinations and our funding commitment will ensure The Spit Master Plan becomes a reality, finally giving the community the certainty it so rightly deserves. In conclusion, I thank all stakeholders and the Gold Coast community for their dedication to our new shared vision for the Southport Spit.