




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Great Keppel Island

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.17 pm): Great Keppel—Wop-pa—Island is the jewel in the crown of our region and I am pleased to provide an update on the master planning of the island which is currently underway. The master planning of GKI recommenced on 8 August at the fifth workshop with the community-based project reference group held in Yeppoon. The workshop was generally positive, with aligned aspirations and community commitment to the project reaffirmed. Thirty-two people attended and participants comprised members of the PRG and Queensland government representatives across key state agencies. Mr Anthony Aiossa from Tower Holdings Pty Ltd participated virtually in this forum for the first time in the master planning process.

The workshop included a refresh of the draft illustrative concept plan and an update provided to the PRG from the department on the progress of the technical investigation into the location and design of a jetty for GKI, which was identified by the PRG as the highest priority for common-user infrastructure. PRG members were updated on the project governance, noting that an executive-led project control group has been established with representation from DOR, Queensland Treasury and the office of the Coordinator-General. The project team is working on the draft illustrative plan for community consultation, delivering the draft master plan for public consultation, conducting market sounding to test the market for investors interested in development aligned with the master plan vision, developing an investment strategy and delivering the agreed priority common-user infrastructure.

A draft master plan will be completed by December 2022, with the intention of releasing it for public consultation in February next year. The master planning project will also be informed by the Queensland parliament Transport and Resources Committee's inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland's island resorts, which is currently underway. I thank the chair and the committee for visiting Yeppoon and GKI last week as part of the committee's inquiry.

The department of tourism is delivering the Queensland government's \$30 million commitment for common-user infrastructure for GKI and is currently working closely with experts in Maritime Safety Queensland to evaluate options for improving access to GKI which was identified by local stakeholders as the top priority. The options being considered include various safe-landing designs and locations on GKI, with the preferred solutions and delivery time frames to be informed by further design work, technical studies, approval requirements and local stakeholder consultation. The department advised that MSQ will be conducting targeted consultation before the end of this year on the jetty location.

The vision and principles in the draft illustrative concept plan have now been affirmed and it was agreed that the five vignettes require refinement. Next steps include updating the draft illustrative concept plan to incorporate the PRG's feedback, publication of the fifth workshops consultation report and further engagement with the Indigenous stakeholders. I look forward to the next meeting of the PRG on Monday, 5 September 2022.