



From the Mayor's Office
Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City



23 May 2017

KW:DS:fm
Contact: Mayor's Office
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Honourable Darren Chester MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: Minister.Chester@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to urgently request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA) project. Ideally I would like to meet prior to Thursday 8 June, which is when the Federal Government is scheduled to make a decision on the Walker Group's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) referral for this project. I appreciate this date is fast approaching and in your position you have a very full diary, so if you are unable to meet in person by this date I would be more than happy to meet with a senior representative within your department or alternatively discuss over the phone.

The \$1.4 billion Toondah Harbour redevelopment will see the tired ferry terminal transformed into a regional tourism attraction. The harbour is the main departure and arrival point for ferry and water taxi services between the mainland and North Stradbroke Island. It is also used to launch recreational and commercial craft, and comprises of residential and open space land. The benefits of this once in a lifetime project cannot be underestimated, representing unrivalled tourism, cultural and economic growth opportunities for the region. This is supported by the fact that earlier this year, Toondah Harbour was awarded Austrade Tourism Major Project Facilitation service status.

A revitalised Toondah harbour will encourage more than 45,000 additional visitors to the region every year. This equates to a potential \$21 million per annum in tourism revenue and \$78 million per annum in additional retail expenditure for the region. This project will generate more than 1000 jobs per annum during the construction phase, 500 jobs per annum post construction, with jobs supported by visitor expenditure equating to more than 250. This economic activity is vital for the Redlands, in particular North Stradbroke Island, which is not only the destination for most people who use Toondah Harbour but also an island that is facing uncertain times as it prepares for the end of sand mining in 2019.

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While there is understandably a great deal of excitement about this project, there is also a great deal of work still to be done. This new EPBC application is not asking for approval of the project, merely it is asking to allow Walker Group to take it to the next stage of assessment - to have it tested against the science through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I have always supported such scrutiny, and believe Walker Group should have the opportunity to demonstrate the acceptability of the proposal through an EIS.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this important project and its benefits for the Redlands and wider community.

Kind regards



Mayor Karen Williams
Redland City Council

s22

From: s22@redland.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2017 5:36 PM
To: Minister Chester
Subject: 20170523 Minister Darren Chester - Toondah Harbour (A2372307)
Attachments: 20170523 Darren Chester MP - Toondah Harbour#2.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached letter from Mayor Karen Williams Redland City Council.

*Relates to EPBC.
process as core rather
than MR?*

Kind Regards

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s22 has sent you a copy of "20170523 Minister Darren Chester - Toondah Harbour" (A2372307) v6.0 from Objective.