

We The People
Program 344 July 1, 2019
We the People 344 The Spit Master Plan



Good Day to you. The shallow marine estuary adjacent to Southport is known as the Broadwater. It is separated from the ocean by the long slender finger of land famously called **The Spit** and this has been the subject of much consternation for many years. I mention this so the many interstate listeners who follow **We The People on 4CRB** know exactly where I'm referring to. This is also the location of SeaWorld and the Southport Yacht Club and many people and visitors enjoy the unique and natural aspects of the Spit. Dog lovers use the off leash beach areas on both sides of this peninsular and children can play and swim in safety along with any number of water sports available. It's no wonder this lovely area has been under threat for so long by greedy developers who thought they had it in hand to decimate with their ugly concrete monoliths especially with the current Council and its predilection to concrete the entire coastline. The good news is that these negative forces have been largely stymied with the release of the Spit master plan.

The very first call to save the Spit from development came in 1966 and it's been an incredible battle by dedicated locals for over 50 years and God bless them for their relentless energy. When the community want something to happen why on earth does it take so long to be realised. Governments including local Councils have a dreadful reputation for not listening to the people and Gold Coast history is littered with very poor decisions made out of step with the community. However it's a new day and I congratulate the **Queensland State Government** on this master plan for the Spit where they've listened and done their best to bring together disparate forces. It's not a perfect plan and they have kicked the can down the road regarding the ship terminal by not actually making a decision about it. It is possible that this wretched impractical and economically questionable ship proposal may yet get up. Nonetheless it's a good master plan overall and proof that if government really listen to the people things can happen for the measurable good of the Gold Coast. It goes without saying that Premier Palaszczuk and her deputy Jackie Trad have congratulated themselves publically and so we won't get a Sunland high rise or a Chinese casino on the Spit but we might still get a ship terminal. Can you imagine all this and an enormous ship docking at the exposed end of a kilometre long ocean side jetty with 6000 people disembarking for one day to spend almost nothing.

You can look at the master plan 'on line' and decide for yourself but in taking the people with them the State Government has done what the local Council wouldn't and the result is largely a good one. As with everything there are many unsung heroes who in the end appear to get no credit for their tireless efforts over all those years. The State government did not thank them but I intend to right now as a celebration of we the people in action in this democracy. Firstly **Lyn Wright and Arnold Wolthers** from the Friends of Federation Walk and the indefatigable **Lois Levy** from the Gecko Environment Council. The fearless **David Hutley** from the Main Beach Association and the separate Main Beach Progress Association pre 2012 and **Doug Jennings MP**. Last but definitely not least are the pre-eminent group called **Save Our Spit** who we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude and who were informally acknowledge on site by the Premier. The courageous and articulate **Steven Gratton** and his tireless team have been magnificent in driving home the real facts and the real worth of the Spit for many years. I know Save Our Spit will win down the track in having the Ship Terminal plan struck off. Congratulations to all and do let me know if I have missed anyone.

It's a big win for the people but now we have to vigorously address Tom's Titanic Ship Terminal before it goes any further and ruins all the good work and decimates Philip Park and the Spit. By the way if you would like to help with Federation walk just call or email me and I will pass on your details.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley Spit master plan <https://dsdmipprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/the-spit-master-plan-may-2019.pdf>