


Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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MEMBER: Mrs LAUGA

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.41 pm): I rise today to speak on the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. As a planner passionate about responsible development, unique tourism experiences and environmental sustainability, I am confident that this bill strikes a healthy balance in what is a very important site on the Gold Coast. I acknowledge the Minister for State Development for ensuring the community were consulted extensively on this proactive, responsible framework for sustainable development on the Spit. I also acknowledge the member for Bancroft and the other members and secretariat of the parliamentary committee which examined this bill.

The Gold Coast is home to iconic tourism experiences. The last time I was at the Spit was a few years ago when I went fishing. I did not catch anything that day, but it was a great day out.

Ms Pease: Casting practice.

Mrs LAUGA: It was a casting practice. This bill will help unlock the Spit's potential for even more experiences in a responsible, planned manner in much the same way as I aspire to see Great Keppel Island again be home to iconic, sustainable tourism experiences. Of course, the bill and its accompanying master plan will provide for low-rise residential properties which will be in context with the surrounding environment.

I note the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed \$60 million to commence implementation of the master plan. This will go towards capital works projects including public realm improvements on the Spit and a site release program to manage the release of development sites identified in the master plan. This is what our government does: we consult, we invest, we deliver and we create jobs. We are delivering a master plan and precinct rejuvenation that will protect green spaces and amenity, unlock responsible sustainable development, enable more tourism investment and, most importantly, will drive more jobs—1,800 jobs, I understand - as the projects in the master plan are delivered.

This is a plan by the people for the people. The vision, strategies and precincts together create a cohesive framework for the future of the Spit and it brings consensus to a part of the Gold Coast that for too long has been contested. As a passionate urban and regional planner I believe in the power of planning to shape our world. Planning supports our everyday life, connecting us with places to live, to work, to study and to play. It supplies us with clean water and air, with energy to power our lives and with food to nourish our bodies. Planning is the tool that creates places that we love and that nurture us now and into the future. Planning matters.

The Spit Master Plan is a prime example of good planning. The Queensland government committed to genuine consultation and engagement utilising an inquiry-by-design approach. Innovative community consultation techniques were utilised in both online and workshop settings and I can see that the investment in consultation and engagement is really the strength of this plan because the views of stakeholders are very strong in the vision of the plan.

I support the bill and welcome another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to responsible development, sound planning principles, catalytic investments in tourism and community assets and extensive community consultation. I look forward to this master plan unlocking another generation of memories for Queenslanders as they enjoy what is one of our state's many tourism gems. I commend the bill to the House.