

Confidential

URGENT BUSINESS CR BOGLARY GM 7 SEPTEMBER 2016

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PUBLIC)

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the confidential urgent business and ;
2. Progress lodging an expression of interest as the preferred site for the scuttling of the ex-HMAS Tobruk as per the report.

Confidential briefing note:

That Council resolves to:

1. Seek funding partners to contribute to preparing and scuttling the ex-HMAS Tobruk in the waters of North Stradbroke Island.
2. Commit to \$2.1 million in joint funding from Council and partners in Council's expression of interest to the Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, who are selecting the preferred Queensland Government site for the scuttling of ex-HMAS Tobruk for consideration by the Australian Government.
3. Commit in the EOI to contributing up to \$75,000 per year for ongoing maintenance of the wreck once it is scuttled in 2018, with the State Government contributing the remaining up to \$75,000 per year;
4. Note the value to the local economy that the dive wreck is expected to bring to the area.
 - a. A 2010 report by the University of the Sunshine Coast shows that after scuttling the ex-HMAS Brisbane off Sunshine Coast waters there was an economic benefit in excess of \$4.5 million per annum for the next four years;
 - b. The State Government advises that the ex-HMAS Brisbane wreck now attracts an average of 5300 scuba divers per year with an estimated annual economic impact of \$1.5 million.
5. Note that Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Marketing support Redland City Council's expression of interest, which would deliver a world-class dive site that would not only benefit North Stradbroke Island and Redlands but the Greater Brisbane Region.
6. Note the importance of the tourism industry for North Stradbroke Island due to the cessation of sand mining by 2019.
7. Note the expression of interest is due to the State by 16 September 2016.
8. Note support from tourism and business operators, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, Straddie Chamber of Commerce, Redland City Chamber of Commerce, community and divers from across the Redlands and Brisbane, with Council's change.org petition to the Premier of Queensland and Minister for Tourism already registering more than 325 petitions.

- 9. Note that other councils in Queensland are lodging expressions of interest, including a joint submission from Fraser Coast and Bundaberg accompanied by a commitment of \$2 million. Gold Coast City Council is also expected to submit an expression of interest.**
- 10. Lodge an expression of interest as the preferred Queensland site for the scuttling of the ex-HMAS Tobruk.**

Background: The Palaszczuk Government will lodge a formal bid with the Department of Defence to scuttle the ex-HMAS Tobruk off the Queensland coast as a dive site. The Government would also open an Expression of Interest process for Queensland councils to nominate a site to scuttle the vessel. The HMAS Tobruk was decommissioned on 31 July 2015 after serving the Royal Australian Navy since 1981. The ship has supported Australian peacekeeping operations in Bougainville and East Timor and has made multiple trips to the Middle East to deliver vehicles and cargo to Australian forces in the region. The vessel is 127 metres long and its large deck space and interior will provide excellent access for divers. If sunk off the Queensland coast, it has the potential to be a major drawcard for Queensland. If Queensland is successful in its bid for the ship, the State Government will take responsibility for cleaning, preparing and scuttling the ship. The Government has called for coastal councils to offer an expression of interest to partner with the State Government to make this new tourism venture a reality. The Department of Defence was expected to make their decision within four weeks.

