



The Gold Coast Combined Chamber Of Commerce Gives qualified support to the reestablishment of Tiplers

Tiplers needed some tender loving care but what council did in purchasing the lease was to go way beyond that. Council's future vision of Tiplers and that of the boating fraternity who enjoyed and loved this special destination are worlds apart.

The Gold Coast Combined Chamber Of Commerce gives its qualified support to the reestablishment of Tiplers. Further, it would support private enterprise management of the destination provided that an economically viable business plan and responsible site management policy meets with the Chamber's approval.

The Chambers support was determined for the following reasons:

A. Our determination to double funding for Gold Coast Tourism (a further \$10M) with the additional capital coming from general revenue rather than an increase in the existing levy on over 28000 businesses. Council's purchase of Tiplers at a cost of over \$10M, and rising, is an ongoing and increasing deficit rather than an investment with high potential return.

B. The city cannot afford to lose this important tourism destination patronised by the boating fraternity from all over, not just those residing locally.

C. Council lacks the expertise to adequately manage a commercial enterprise of this nature and has demonstrated such by excluding those critical benefits and amenities that had, for decades, made Tiplers a popular destination with the boating fraternity.

D. Council's decision was short sighted and ignored the needs of those who indulge in boating and recreational fishing in a city that has an intimate and economic association with these pastimes.

E. Under councils stated plans for the site, it will continue to be a burden on ratepayers including business.

F. Council's agenda of greening our city at the expense of established tourism sites or attractions requires close scrutiny and challenge, as is the case of Tiplers. While the Chamber recognises and supports responsible environmental management there are circumstances where a case-by-case study is required to formulate balance in accommodating the needs of the community that also represents an indivisible part of the environment.

With 99.9% of South Stradbroke's landmass remaining, much of that unlike the Tiplers site not revegetated sand mining lease, there was ample opportunity for council to establish an eco-tourism park for considerably less than \$10 million. There was therefore no compelling need to fundamentally change Tiplers, a well-established tourism destination.

**Bob Janssen
President Gold Coast Combined Chamber of Commerce Inc**