

The Councillors  
Gold Coast City Council

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Councillors,

This is a letter of support for the proposal issued by Keith Douglas for a series of artificial reefs off the Gold Coast.

I am 34 years old and have had the privilege of growing up on the Gold Coast. My time as a child was spent on the waterways pumping yabbies for local tackle shops and learning the art of understanding the waters we have here. Crossing the bars and navigating the rivers was all part of the after school activities for me and nearly every weekend my parents, brothers and sister would venture out to appreciate the true beauty of what the Gold Coast was about.

I have been involved in many aspects of water based activities here on the Gold Coast which has led me to my current status of being involved in the television industry for fishing and lifestyle shows, reporting on the current boating weather and fishing conditions for radio stations not only here on the coast but around the country as well as writing boating and fishing reports for our own Gold Coast Bulletin and I can professionally say we are in dire need of artificial reefs and a whole new management system for the waterways here. I have seen a massive decline of fish stocks from both a commercial and recreational aspect and that can only be put down to one word...pressure.

Councillors, we are in desperate need of water and have addressed the problem way too late. Let's not leave the reefs to the last minute and find our fish stocks have been depleted and marine life diminishing to an all time low.

I see money being added to the coffers all the time whether it be from development or other building industries we now have thriving here on the Gold Coast and for \$43,000, we could commission a report to professionally understand the benefits of artificial reefs.

I have come from growing up on the Coomera River to the waters adjacent Hollywell and Runaway Bay and have seen the huge increase of population which not only brings traffic jams that we tackle every morning but also boats. The south east sector has the highest amount of registered boats per capita in the Southern Hemisphere. These people come to the Gold Coast for the lifestyle. If they are moving here, they move for what the Gold Coast stands for being beautiful waterways, lush green mountains, endless beaches and the freedom of escaping onto what are the best waterways in the country...at least for now.

I do not have a University Degree in this but I do have the knowledge from being out there nearly every day.

The waters are silting up and the reefs are becoming over populated every day by many different water based activities. The demand is there and the time is now. We should be acting immediately on this and commissioning a report. Sure the tourists will come, I don't have to sell you that but I am who I am and that is a true local who understands the benefits of this. Not only would we be creating employment from building the reefs but also the diving companies who would dive there and the follow on to the local tackle shops, the fuel companies, the marine industries and many more. We would also be creating a home for fish and other marine life which in turn would ease the pressure the natural reefs are now facing.

If there is a councillor who fishes, dives or is a regular user of the Broadwater amongst you, you would understand the massive decline in marine species, fish life and catches over the past 30years.

If you have any further questions or would like to sit down in a meeting to discuss, feel free to call.

I hope you take in what I've said and I appreciate your time in reading my letter of support.

Yours Faithfully

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