

PORT OF AIRLIE MARINA DEVELOPMENT

Appendix P Whitsunday Times Article

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Transcript of an article appearing in the Whitsunday Times – 26 September 2002

PLANS CUT BACK

Environment put first in marina development

By IAN MACKAY

ENVIRONMENTAL concerns have led to a considerably reduced Port of Airlie marina development in Muddy Bay. New plans will be canvassed with the major partner, the Airlie Beach Sailing Club, next week and in a newsletter to be distributed to 3000 households in Airlie Beach, Cannonvale and Shute Harbour.

The Brisbane-based development consortium, Windward North Pty Ltd, said the original development provided for two encircling arms of reclaimed land stretching out across the bay and enveloping an array of marina berths, docking and handling facilities for inter-island ferries and waterside housing and hotels.

The revised proposal nestles a significantly downscaled development into the shoreline areas, while simultaneously preserving native vegetation and providing much needed maritime-based facilities.

It was possible shoreline further east in Muddy Bay could be developed at a later date. Windward North said an environmental impact statement (EIS) had been prepared in 1998, and the revised development proposal was a response to issues identified in that EIS.

The downscaled proposal being presented shows:

- ❑ An 81% reduction in the amount of reclaimed land
- ❑ A 78% reduction in the size of commercial and retail areas
- ❑ An 88% reduction in the area allocated for residential land
- ❑ A 60% reduction in the number of marina berths
- ❑ A 97% reduction in the volume of imported rock, fill and sand required for the project which also eliminated the need for a quarry to be established to provide materials.

The newsletter shows the revised development plan provides for 240 marina berths and associated facilities catering for vessels up to 30 metres in length, a ferry terminal, maritime training academy, public boat ramp with parking for cars and trailers, and a transport interchange for pedestrians, buses, taxis and ferries. There will also be public car parking spaces, boat maintenance facilities and a hard stand area and vessel refuelling and sewage pump-out facilities.

Key parts of the development include a 180 bed, apartment style hotel and residential components including apartments, units and detached homes. A spectacular feature will be half a dozen premium priced housing allotments on a peninsula of land stretching from Airlie Point and forming the northern breakwater of the marina.

The newsletter also outlines the studies covered in a supplementary environmental impact statement as well as the processes involved in the Department of State

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Development coordinating an assessment of the proposal. It includes a coupon encouraging people to formally table their views on the project and also advises where they can inspect detailed plans.

An open day for the project is scheduled for October 5 between 10.30am and 2.30pm at the Whitsunday Sailing Club.