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MEDIA RELEASE

Tourism Opportunity for Great Keppel Island

The announcement last week that the Tower Holdings Development proposal for Great Keppel Island in Central Queensland has been granted 'State Significance' status is seen as an important issue for the residents and visitors to the Capricorn Coast area.

Capricorn Tourism's Chairman, Mr Grant Cassidy, has welcomed the news, saying that "working with the community and resort owners on a sustainable and responsible development plan for Great Keppel Island is of the highest importance to our region. Tower Holdings now moving forward in undertaking an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is good news and we encourage Tower Holdings in their engagement and consultation with the local community, tourism groups and others stakeholders to identify a win-win solution".

The closure of the former resort operations has had a significant negative impact on the local community and the island landscape. The concept plans for a redevelopment include the inclusion of a new resort, marina and retail village precinct, golf course and an enviro-park.

Alan Chamberlain, Capricorn Tourism Chief Executive Officer, has said "the opportunity to bring a new resort onto Great Keppel Island in place of the existing facility is exciting for tourism across all of Queensland. Recognising the concerns from many in our community, we are keen to see this new development introduce a world-standard ecologically sustainable resort environment. This has been successfully achieved in a number of resorts around the country and would be a major attraction for our region".

Tower Holdings representatives will be launching details and plans of the proposed development on the Capricorn Coast this week.

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