

\$35m recreation area plan for Auckland Point

Includes a water park, boardwalk and playgrounds

A \$35 million recreation area has been proposed for the Auckland Point foreshores precinct.

The current proposal includes a water park, boardwalk, playgrounds and treetop lookouts.

The proposal comes after the State Government yesterday signed the mandate that gave the green light to the new Wiggins Island Coal terminal, expected to be built from July next year.

Premier Anna Bligh said the mandate meant the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal (WICET) group of 18 coal companies would develop and own the new coal terminal.

"Wiggins Island Coal Terminal is a four billion dollar project that will create up to 800 jobs in construction and 300 ongoing jobs in Gladstone and help power the Queensland economy for years to come," she said.

Part of the ownership of the terminal, which will cost \$2 billion during Stage One, would mean providing social infrastructure for the community, namely the



MINING NEWS

Auckland East Shores Precinct development.

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) CEO Leo Zussino said the plan was to return to the area's historical uses.

"People used to swim and fish in the area," Mr Zussino said.

"It used to be a place where families could come and enjoy the harbour.

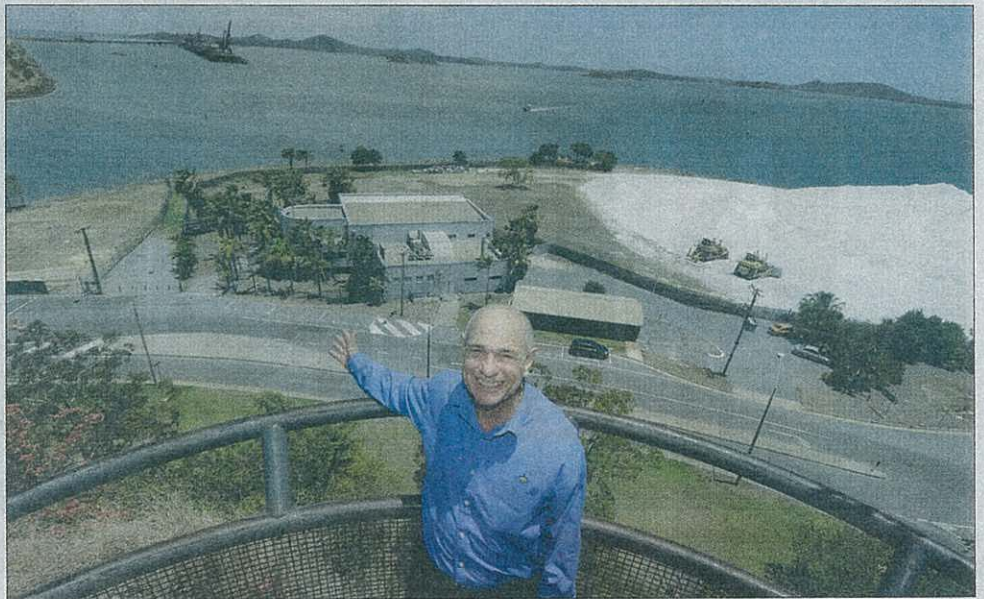
"We want to recreate that."

Mr Zussino said the decision to develop the area was a response to public outcry that something needed to be done.

"What the Gladstone community are looking for are tangible community benefits (from industry) and this is what that will provide.

Ms Bligh said the Auckland East Shores Precinct would change the face of Gladstone.

"Stage One will set the tone for the commercial redevelopment



NEW LIFE: Gladstone Ports Corporation chief executive officer Leo Zussino stands on Auckland Hill lookout over the proposed development site.

which will occur between O'Connell Wharf and Wilby Creek.

"What has been a somewhat neglected area will now become the primary playground for the residents of Gladstone.

"The development of this precinct will ensure Gladstone can hold its own as a destination of choice."

Former mayor Peter Coronos said the development would be the beginning of a CBD reinvigoration in Gladstone.

Currently GAPDL chairman, Mr Coronos said he was excited to be on the brink of big changes for Gladstone.

"It will bring a big injection of life into Gladstone," he said.

"(The precinct) will be a real people place... and the start of the rejuvenation of Gladstone city."



PEOPLE PLACE: A map of the proposed Auckland Point recreation area.



Wiggins Island.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Rio Tinto appoints its new iron ore chief negotiator

RIO Tinto Ltd has responded to "increased complexities" in the Asian market by appointing a new chief negotiator for iron ore in the region.

Will Malaney will step down from his role as chief negotiator to focus on managing Asian sales as president of Rio Tinto

Iron Ore (RTIO) Asia.

Perth-based executive Danny Goeman will relocate to Singapore in January to become lead iron ore price negotiator for the company's Asian iron ore division and will report to Mr Malaney.

The changes come five months after Rio Tinto's most senior staff

member in China, Australian man Stern Hu, was arrested on spy charges, which were later downgraded to bribery and obtaining commercial secrets.

Chinese steel mills are by far the biggest customer for Rio Tinto's iron ore and the arrest sparked claims the

Asian nation was seeking payback after the failure of a key business deal.

New negotiations for next year's benchmark prices are expected to commence later this month.

Mr Hu and three Chinese colleagues remain incarcerated in

China awaiting trial.

There have been more recent criticisms in China from steelmakers angry at a proposed \$A126.53 billion joint venture between BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto involving their Pilbara iron ore assets in Western Australia.

"The sales and mar-

keting accountabilities within RTIO Asia and the iron ore group are being restructured to address the increasing complexities of the Asian market," the company note to staff said.

A Rio Tinto spokesman denied the new appointment was related to the controversy sur-

rounding Mr Hu.

China also recently announced the state-controlled China Iron and Steel Association would step down as chief negotiator for iron ore prices.

The country's largest steel producer, Baosteel, will instead take the reins.

- AAP