



## Coast marine plans under consideration

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Laura Nelson, Gold Coast Sun | October 12th, 2011

AMBITIOUS plans to build a \$390 million marine precinct at Coomera have resurfaced with the State Government now declaring the project is of "state significance".

The State Government is assessing a proposal for the massive Gold Coast International Marine Precinct and its terms of reference for the environmental impact went before the Gold Coast City Council's planning committee last week.

If approved, the precinct on the Coomera River will generate 2700 full-time jobs and \$250 million in annual export income.

The proposal has been on the drawing board since 2007. Project developer is Harbour Island Pty Ltd, which is acting on behalf of the Property Solutions Group Australia and its partnership with Maritimo Pty Ltd.

Area councillor Donna Gates said the State Government was assessing Maritimo's proposal. It would decide if the project was worthy to proceed and then the council would have to give the final approvals.

She said council officers had cited some concerns about hydraulics, flood risks and the impact of the marina on the environment and residents.

The ambitious plan includes a 29ha marine industrial zone, dry storage for 290 boats, a 4.5ha internal marina with 110 berths, an external marina with 280 berths, a 9.3ha mixed-use precinct and a TAFE college.

The Coomera River will have to be widened by 7ha and 11.5ha of land removed to accommodate the precinct.

Cr Gates said the State Government had declared the project of state significance because of the huge economic benefit it could bring.

"Maritimo proposes to develop this precinct on the river adjacent to Foxwell Island and opposite the recently approved Waterway Downs development, which will yield 1800 dwellings," she said.

"The council is keen to encourage economic development in the region but we need to be sure the impact on the environment and surrounding communities are addressed."

The council also had concerns about flooding as the marine precinct would be built on very low-lying land.

State MP Michael Crandon said a project of this size was very welcome on the northern Gold Coast.