



Council

Gold Coast ratepayers need to fork out \$10m to fix Sundale Bridge if Mariner's Cove development goes ahead

Lea Emery and Paul Weston, Gold Coast Bulletin
September 14, 2016 12:00am

IT will cost ratepayers at least \$10 million to fix The Spit's traffic issues.

A city council planning committee was told fixes to Waterways Dr could be made but ultimately the sticking point was the capacity of the Gold Coast Bridge at Southport.

The traffic issues came to a head yesterday during a council committee meeting to determine the future of the \$600 million Sunland development of the Mariner's Cove area.



📷 Heavy traffic along the Spit.

Town planners had recommended the committee refuse the project, a decision based on 14 different points, including an inadequate solution to the traffic issues.

Mayor Tom Tate, who dropped into the committee meeting citing his interest in the project, pressed council officers about traffic issues.

He said an earlier presentation had shown him there was a workable solution to congestion in the area.

Cr Tate's pressing about a traffic solution was not welcomed in the public gallery.

"Vote them out," one woman yelled.

"Vote them all out."

Councillors spoke about the traffic issues for most of the almost two-hour long discussion on the controversial development which attracted about 100 people into the public gallery.





📷 Traffic problems on the Sundale Bridge.

Council officers told the committee that without an upgrade, the area would simply not be able to handle an increase in traffic.

Estimates show it will cost at least \$10 million to add an additional northern lane to the bridge which carries the Gold Coast Highway over the Nerang River.

The estimates are only preliminary and any detailed costings, including the bridge's load capacity, are yet to be examined.

The committee was told the only other option was to expand the light rail into the area at a cost of \$200 million.

Cr Tate, who left the meeting early to attend disaster management training, warned councillors they needed to consider the Sundale Bridge.

“If you do this (approve the project), you need to upgrade the bridge,” he said.

“If you don't update the bridge, you shouldn't go with it at all.”

But the bridge is out of the area for consideration for the application, meaning ratepayers would have to fund any upgrade.

Nevertheless, developers Sunland have only proposed to pay for 45 per cent of the upgrades at the Waterways Dr and Seaworld Dr roundabout and at the Waterways Dr and Gold Coast Hwy intersection.

Most of those in the public gallery were not happy such a large part of the discussion surrounded traffic issues.

Many booed as solutions to the congestion were put forward.

The decision will be made on the project at full council on Thursday.

