

We The People
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We the People 265 Lindeman Island



Good Day to you. The year 1770 was an important year when Captain Cook discovered Australia's eastern coast line. During his astonishing and courageous voyage he followed the coast of then Terra Australis from south to north mapping and naming dominant geographic features and places. It must have been amazing for the Englishman to see such an ancient land and its pristine waterways and unique wildlife and vegetation. I think we should be grateful the English settled here and not some other mob who may well have dominated with a dictatorship or cruel autocracy. During this voyage Cook came across the Great Barrier Reef and in particular a group of islands he called the **Whitsundays**. The name comes from the Anglican celebration of White Sunday- Pentecost held seven weeks after Easter and it was then that Captain Cook named the Whitsunday Passage. Now of all these magnificent Islands one in particular is the subject of today's narrative that being Lindeman Island.

A proposal is currently before the Queensland Government regarding the redevelopment of the Lindeman Island derelict resort, closed since being battered by Cyclone Yasi in 2011. The proposal includes **revocation of part of the national park on Lindeman Island**. Yes, you heard correctly the new owner-developer wants to take over the control of an additional 37 hectares plus another 9 ha for glamping, so 46 ha in total. **Glamping** is the term used for 5 star camping and all that comes with it. So we the people lose more national park area in the precious Whitsundays apparently because of 'jobs, jobs, jobs' which is the most over used phrase in politics and often a misnomer. However here's the drum, the developers are the **White Horse Australia Lindeman group** and you guessed it..... **a Chinese company**. So here is my point. We revoke a part of a national park to allow the new Chinese owners of the resort under perpetual lease to destroy more bush and displace more wildlife and introduce more of everything into this fragile eco system and national icon. They are also going to expand the airport and other areas already in the lease. So go to China and seek permission to do the same there and I say 'good luck mate'.

At some point this country and its so called leaders must look to stabilise the nations population so as to curb the demand for more development and the never ending destruction of bushland **and now national parks**. This is an arid continent and we must look after it and too many people spells disaster. I heard it said once that Australians must be careful not to eventually become the house keepers of the Chinese, meaning we the Australian people become akin to servants in our great southern land. China now has more billionaires than the USA and it's rising, so money's no object as the pollution capital of the world expands. They want a picturesque island and pretty beach.....no problem the Queensland Labor government is so broke they appear willing to sell anything and the LNP are no different. This proposal sets a precedent for national parks which were once thought untouchable but not any more folks.

So if you want to make a difference then write to the Queensland Government and tell them not to allow national park land to be given away to the Chinese or anyone else for that matter. If **we the people** don't speak up then over time, **we will** become servants to others and to the national disgrace of all those who built and fought for this country. Mollie Beattie, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service summed it up when she said.... **"What a country chooses to save, is what a country chooses to say about itself"**.

Until next time this Kent Bayley