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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Yatala Biomass Plant

A number of residents have been in contact with my office concerning the proposed construction of a biomass electricity generation power plant in the Yatala area.

To clarify the situation, Gold Coast City Council, as the Assessment Manager for the proposal, is the authority responsible for determining the outcome of this development application based on its suitability against the provisions of the Gold Coast's planning scheme and any applicable local laws, regional plans and state planning policies.

The Council is also responsible for considering public submissions for impact assessable developments such as this when making its final decision.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, as a concurrence agency, is responsible for providing a response to the Council for matters within the department's jurisdiction. That is, for proposals involving environmentally relevant activities.

The Department's response is included as part of the package that the Council must take into consideration prior to making the final decision of the application.

It is the role of the Council to make the final decision to approve or refuse the application.

It is important to note, as Assessment Manager, the Council still has the power to refuse an application for reasons other than a concurrence agency's response.

I encourage local residents to contact their Gold Coast City Councillor and share their views on this proposal.

If this location is deemed inappropriate the Council has the power to relocate the facility to a more fitting location.

END.