

Major Milestones set to deliver generational infrastructure for The Spit

20 December 2024

- The reopening of Muriel Henschman Park marks the completion of the \$19 million state-of-the-art boating improvements project at The Spit, Main Beach as part of implementing The Spit Master Plan.
- The \$5.7 million revitalisation of Doug Jennings Park, scheduled to commence late January 2025, is set to enhance the usability and appeal of The Spit as a premier lifestyle destination.
- These projects underscore the commitment by the Queensland Government, Gold Coast Waterways Authority and the City of Gold Coast to deliver The Spit Master Plan with world-class recreation and marine amenities for both locals and visitors.

Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Jarrod Bleijie, announced that today marks the reopening of The Spit boat ramps on the Gold Coast, with the revitalisation of Doug Jennings Park set to commence in late January 2025.

The \$19 million Muriel Henschman Park project was made possible by City of Gold Coast and Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA), with funding support from the Queensland Government's Spit Works Program.

Just in time for the busy summer holiday season, upgrades provide recreational and commercial boating and vessel access to Gold Coast's Broadwater and iconic waterways. Delivered upgrades include:

- Six state-of-the-art boat ramp lanes
- A floating walkway and 30-metre pontoon suitable for berthing by marine tourism charters and recreational boats
- 75% increase in car parking capacity with 133 spaces
- New public amenities, including a shade shelter, pathways, and landscaping
- A designated area for local outrigger canoe clubs to meet and store equipment.

Set to begin late January 2025, the revitalisation of the popular Doug Jennings Park focusses on enhancing recreational use, natural shade enhancements and improved accessibility while preserving the environmental integrity of the parkland.

This \$5.7 million project reflects two years of meticulous planning and stakeholder engagement by GCWA. Retention of parking west of the round-a-bout is included in the design, addressing community concerns for disability parking and use of emergency access stairs.

Doug Jennings Park upgrades will include:

- Creation of the Seaway Green with gentle mounding to enhance views across the Gold Coast Seaway and the Broadwater
- Increased connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the parkland
- Improved Event Green turf resilience to minimise impacts of festivals and sporting events



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- Tree and native vegetation planting to improve shade, shelter, and ecological values.

Doug Jennings Park will become a vibrant, accessible destination, designed to celebrate the beauty of the Gold Coast while fostering vibrant community connections. It will be a place where families, friends, and visitors can come together, making lifelong memories in an iconic setting.

The Deputy Premier said the Government is dedicated to delivering generational infrastructure projects that make a difference to communities across the state.

"Our government is committed to ensuring The Spit evolves as a place where locals and visitors can connect with nature, enjoy world-class facilities, and experience the best of the Gold Coast," the Deputy Premier said.

"Projects such as these go beyond infrastructure - they create vibrant, accessible spaces where people can connect with our stunning waterways, enjoy recreational activities, and build lasting memories.

"Together, these projects represent a comprehensive approach to preserving and enhancing The Spit, balancing its beauty with the needs of a vibrant and growing city.

"These investments in The Spit are building a legacy for future generations, cementing the Gold Coast as not only one of Queensland's premier destinations, but Australia too."

Member for Surfers Paradise John-Paul Langbroek said the reopening of The Spit boat ramps couldn't come at a better time for the community.

"This is fantastic news for our locals, boaties, and visitors, who can now enjoy easier access to the Seaway and Broadwater during the busy summer holidays," Mr Langbroek said.

"The revitalisation of Doug Jennings Park will also ensure the popular parkland remains attractive to event organisers and its improved accessibility means its natural beauty can be enjoyed by all."

CEO of GCWA, Chris Derksema said the revitalisation of Doug Jennings Park and the reopening of Muriel Henchman Park reflect their commitment to 'making places' that resonate with the community and celebrate the natural beauty of the Gold Coast.

"At Muriel Henchman Park, we've delivered improved facilities that serve as a gateway to the Broadwater and the Seaway, while at Doug Jennings Park, we're focusing on preserving and enhancing its role as a cherished community destination," Mr Derksema said.

"We are creating places that reflects our city's unique waterways and the aspirations of our growing community. Both projects are shining examples of what can be achieved through collaboration and thoughtful design."

For more information about Muriel Henchman Park, Doug Jennings Park or The Spit Master Plan Implementation visit <https://gcwa.qld.gov.au/spit-master-plan-implementation/>.

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