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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Caley Valley Wetlands a victim of fast-tracking**

Federal Environment Minister Hunt has agreed to the State government's request that its proposal to dump dredge spoil in the Caley Valley Wetlands at Abbot Point be given the lowest possible level of assessment.

'This decision underscores the unprecedented level to which the governments will go to support the coal industry in general and Indian mining company Adani in particular' said North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'After repeatedly declaring that the most environmentally friendly site for the dredge spoil was offshore, Queensland Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney did a complete about-face and declared the best solution was to dump the spoil in the Wetlands' she said.

The Wetlands are listed as of national importance and meet the RAMSAR criteria for listing as an internationally significant wetland.

'The dredge spoil would be dumped in the trigger area for the Great Barrier Reef Wetlands, which serve as a filter for the Reef, as habitat for vulnerable, threatened and migratory birds and other fauna, and as a nursery for fish', Ms Tubman explained.

'The impacts of dumping almost three million tonnes of spoil in this important and fragile area have never been examined. Even the documentation that has been provided by the State government to Mr Hunt acknowledges that much of the analysis required has not been done.'

'The fact that considerable work was done in assessing the previous proposal to dump the spoil offshore is irrelevant. This is a totally different proposal with the potential to damage a whole new significant environment.

'Our governments are colluding to push through a massive coal export terminal within the Great Barrier Reef Region without due care.

‘This decision comes just a day after the Australian Academy of Science slammed the Federal and Queensland Long Term Sustainability Plan for the Reef to 2050, and a day after major US banks walked away from involvement in the Abbot Point proposal on the grounds of economics and lack of social licence.

‘Our governments are out of control. They have backed themselves into a corner in their support of a dying industry and are now flouting their responsibilities further in an attempt to push things through.

‘If we do not want to risk the World Heritage Area being declared as ‘in danger’, it is essential that this proposal be subject to the most rigorous assessment possible, with full and open community involvement’ Ms Tubman said.

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