



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
Qld, 4810
PO Box 364, Townsville
Ph: 61 07 47716226
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2014

GBRMPA approves yet more dumping in the GBR World Heritage Area

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has approved dredging in the GBR Marine Park and the dumping of 378, 000 cubic metres of dredge spoil in the Park, this time off Hay Point, south of Abbot Point.

[82,000 cubic metres of the dredging will take place in the GBR Marine Park, with the balance occurring in the GBR World Heritage Area. 378,000 cubic metres of the dredge spoil will be dumped in the Marine Park.]

‘This approval makes a mockery of assurances from the GBRMPA and the Minister for the Environment that they are both doing their best to protect the already highly stressed and greatly threatened Great Barrier Reef’ said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

NQCC is currently challenging the decision to permit the dumping of three million cubic metres of dredge spoil in the GBR Marine Park at Abbot Point in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

At the same time, the Queensland Port Strategy, released today, identifies five ports along the Queensland coast slated for expansion. This includes the Port of Townsville, which is still in the middle of an assessment. The Townsville project would involve the dumping of 5.6 million cubic metres of dredge spoil in the GBRWHA.

‘The Federal government is taking both the community, which has made patently clear its disapproval of sea-dumping, and UNESCO, which next week will decide whether or not to list the GBRWHA as ‘World Heritage in Danger’, for a ride’ said Ms Tubman.

‘It is an astounding level of arrogance that allows the government to claim it is protecting the Reef while allowing it to be subjected to such damage from out-of-control sea-dumping’.

‘Australia is required by law to limit disposal of waste, including dredge spoil, into the ocean. Yet, over and over again we see virtually automatic approval for sea-dumping of dredge spoil’.

Further information: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535