



114 Boundary Street  
Railway Estate, Townsville  
Qld, 4810  
PO Box 364, Townsville  
Ph: 61 07 47716226  
[office@nqcc.org.au](mailto:office@nqcc.org.au)  
[www.nqcc.org.au](http://www.nqcc.org.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**29 MAY 2013**

### **Dredge dumping impact larger than thought**

A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) spokesperson has told a Senate Inquiry that the impact of dumping dredge spoil in the ocean is greater than previous estimates had suggested.

The impact of ocean currents, as well as wind and waves, calculated using a three-dimensional model, shows that the dredge spoil would spread further than had been previously calculated on the basis of only wind and waves.

"This concurs with comment provided by North Queensland Conservation Council in relation to the inadequacy of the dredge modelling for the proposed expansion of the Port of Townsville, the PEP" said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

"In our submission, we called for the modelling undertaken for Townsville to be re-done; this information from GBRMPA only strengthens that call.

"The accuracy of the dredge modelling is vital. As we noted in our submission, the dredge modelling is fundamental to all conclusions relating to marine water quality, seagrasses, corals, marine ecology and megafauna. Until the modelling is re-done, no conclusions about the impact of the PEP on matter of national environmental significance (MNES) can be drawn."

This new finding applies to all dredging along the coast and will cast doubt on all environmental impact statements conducted for various port expansions.

"Given that coastal development in Queensland occurs adjacent to the threatened Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, it is essential that assessments meet the very highest standards, if we are to protect this invaluable iconic asset."

**Further Information: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535**