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MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Minister 'mis-speaks' on dumping

"Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt is 'mis-speaking' when he says that Abbot Point was a 'line in the sand' and that no further dumping will take place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park under his watch", according to North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

The Minister told the ABC program Four Corners that the dumping of 3 million cubic metres of dredge spoil in the Marine Park off Abbot Point, which was approved in January this year 'would be the last time' that dredge spoil would be dumped in the Marine Park. He gave a guarantee that no further dumping would take place in the marine park under his watch.

[The link to the ABC promo for tonight's Four Corners is [here](#).]

"Yet just four months after approving the Abbot Point dumping, the Minister, via his delegate, approved the dumping of 378,000 cubic metres of dredge spoil in the Marine Park off Hay Point" said Ms Tubman.

"It is outrageous that the Minister said that Abbot Point was a "line in the sand" and no more dumping would occur in the Park, when he knew that this was not the case.

"By even claiming to stop the dumping in the Park, the Minister is acknowledging the scientific evidence and admitting that dumping does do damage" said Ms Tubman.

"Yet we have the Chair and CEO of GBRMPA, Dr Russell Reichelt, still clinging to the fallacy that the dumping at Abbot Point 'will not do long-term harm to the reef'.

"This is not what his staff were saying, and is not supported by the fact that the Minister and GBRMPA required the damage to the GBRWHA caused by the dumping at Abbot Point to be 'offset' by way of a proponent-funded program to reduce sediment run-off into the GBRWHA.

"This government has shown disdain for the environment and for the local and international community and is now brazenly trying to cover its tracks. And the Chair of GBRMPA is defending the indefensible."

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See also: NQCC's 5 June media release '[GBRMPA approves yet more dumping in the GBRWHA](#)'