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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Fast-tracking Abbot Point in the lead-up to Christmas**

The community has been given just ten working days between today and 18 December in which to provide comment on over 2300 pages of information relating to the proposed dumping of dredge spoil from Abbot Point in the adjacent Caley Valley wetland.

‘This is fast-tracking on steroids’ said North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

‘The Federal government is refusing to conduct a proper Environmental Impact Statement into the State government’s proposal which will have major impacts on this wetland of national significance.

‘At the same time, it is fast-tracking the public consultation period.’

The Federal government is looking to make a decision on the State proposal to dump 3 million cubic metres of dredge spoil in the Caley Valley Wetland, on the shores of the World Heritage Area behind Abbot Point by January.

‘This proposal has not undergone rigorous assessment. We could well be staring into the face of another disaster such as that which happened at Gladstone, where bund walls failed and toxic material caused havoc with the local fishing industry’, Ms Tubman said.

The lengths to which our governments are going and the risks they are taking in order to support the coal industry are staggering. While other countries are moving away from coal, Australia is frantically doing everything it can to speed up coal mining and export.

With the coal market seemingly in long-term if not terminal decline, this rushed decision-making process could cause environmental damage for absolutely no economic benefit.

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