



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
PO Box 364, Townsville
Qld, 4810
Ph: 61 07 47716226
Mob: 0428 987 535
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au
ABN: 55 903 033 286

MEDIA RELEASE

19 August 2014

Minister misleads on Townsville

Federal Environment Minister Hunt yesterday misled the people of Townsville and Australia when he said that he had stopped plans to dump dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off Townsville, according to North Queensland Conservation Council Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

"Last night the Minister told the people of Australia that following his approval of the dumping at Abbot Point in December last year, he had 'drawn a line in the sand', and had put a stop to the practice at four other sites.

One of those he referred to was Townsville.

"The truth is that there were never plans to dump in the Marine Park off Townsville. The spoil dump area is on the border of the Marine Park, not in it. Nevertheless, the dump site is within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area – the area of concern to UNESCO" said Ms Tubman.

"And, of course, the dredge spoil does not stay where it is put. It travels – as Professor Terry Hughes told Four Corners, up to 100km.

"Just ask the people of Magnetic Island about the impact of dumping dredge spoil in the ocean within 5 km of their famous beaches and fringing coral reefs. Just ask the scientists why the seagrass beds and dugong populations are in such poor health in Cleveland Bay in Townsville.

"Another of the four sites where the Minister claimed to have stopped sea dumping was Hay Point. Yet in May of this year, his Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority provided a permit to North Queensland Bulk Ports to dump spoil in the Marine Park.

The Minister is either woefully ill-informed about the biggest issue within his portfolio, or he is intentionally misleading the people in order to look as if he is doing the right thing.

"It is an absolute disgrace, government at its lowest, but the house of cards that the Minister has built is very close to collapsing" said Ms Tubman.

Further information: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535

See also attached Magnetic Island flier distributed at the time the proposed port expansion was up for comment.