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MEDIA RELEASE

Environment on the election agenda

How the environment is handled is an important election issue for the community of north Queensland and the public will have the chance to question candidates on the range of concerns via a series of public forums being convened by North Queensland Conservation Council.

'NQCC does not care which party (or independent members) represents north Queensland as long as our environment is treated with respect and with an understanding that harming our environment affects long-term welfare and economic strength', said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'There is no shortage of environmental issues in our region. We have the question of dumping dredge spoil in the World Heritage Area (especially if the mega-expansion of the Port of Townsville goes ahead), the health of the Great Barrier Reef (especially if climate change goes unchecked), the potential for the re-opening of Ben Lomond uranium mine, subsidies to the terminally ill coal industry, and the issue of toxic dust in Townsville' Ms Tubman said.

'The people of North Queensland expect to hear policies for genuine environmental protection, and all candidates need to be aware that the community will be listening carefully to make sure that policies are based on reality not rhetoric.

'NQCC will be conducting its traditional Environment and the Election forum – and this time will be holding forums in forums in Mundingburra and Thuringowa as well as in Townsville. As usual, all candidates in the seats will be invited to address the forum in their electorate and respond to questions from attendees. Indeed, some of the invitations have already been sent.

'The forums will be a chance for voters to learn about the environmental policies of all candidates so that they can make informed choices on election day'.

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