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MEDIA RELEASE

Townsville dust study reaches international audience **27 February 2015**

A research paper on the recent Townsville dust study undertaken by Professor Mark Taylor at the request of North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) has been published online in *Science of the Total Environment*, a critically recognised publication from the prestigious Elsevier Publishing House.

“Acceptance into this journal just adds strength to the validity of the findings of the report” said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

“To date, the only major stakeholder to have responded to the Report, which was initially provided to stakeholders and subsequently posted on NQCC website in the first week of December, is the Port. They dismissed the findings.

“We are still awaiting a formal response from the State Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and Queensland Health” said Ms Tubman.

“However, NQCC has recently had an opportunity to raise the issue in a meeting with the new Minister for the Environment, Dr Steven Miles and, at his request, provided a full briefing to his staff.

“Amongst other things, that briefing asked for an assurance from the Minister that the State will get to the bottom of this long-standing issue and do whatever is necessary to ensure that residents and visitors are not exposed to unacceptable risk.

“The Port has extended an invitation to meet with NQCC and its members in relation to the issue. We will be happy to accept that invitation but would like the State government, as owner of the Port, to also be involved” Ms Tubman said.

Further information: Wendy Tubman: 0428 987 535

Copy of the Report: <http://nqcc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Taylor-2015-including-supplementary.pdf>