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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **State 'solution' for Abbot Point a farce**

State plans for on-land disposal of dredge spoil at Abbot Point would merely shift the damage from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to a wetland of national significance, said spokesman for North Queensland Conservation Council, Jeremy Tager.

'The claim that the proposal 'will enhance the Caley Valley Wetlands' by Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development Seeney is ludicrous', he said.

'The plan shows the state would reclaim and use a significant portion of the wetlands for industrial purposes (stages 2 and 3). The wetlands are of national significance and home to many vulnerable, endangered and migratory species. The so-called enhancement of the large area of existing (and naturally occurring) wetlands south of the terminals would involve surrounding it with rail lines and bund walls. Heavy industrial development would stretch over 4.5 km along the coast between the wetland and the ocean.

'This is not only replacing one form of unacceptable damage with another but, because the wetland is recognised as important to the health of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, both as fish breeding area and a water filter, the plan is as unacceptable for the GBR as it is for the wetlands.

'It would be unbelievable if the Federal government were to approve this half-baked so-called solution to the problem of dumping dredge spoil in the Marine Park', he added.

'The details provided by Mr Seeney in Bowen last night also fail to identify future expansion plans that appear on his Department's website, and drafts of which have been obtained by NQCC under Right to Information legislation (RtI).

'These drafts identified a 4 km rock groyne extending out into the GBR World Heritage Area and a 250 m wide utilities corridor stretching from the highway to the coast. The report obtained under RtI also identifies an additional 10 million cubic metres of spoil to be dredged in order to accommodate an additional four berths.

'Mr Seeney's plan is not a plan to save the GBR but to expand its destruction, made worse by the fact that he is doing this on behalf of a cash-strapped transnational coal-mining corporation (Adani) and forcing Queensland taxpayers to foot the bill.

'This plan is a farce and doomed to failure.'

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(See attached map)