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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Transcript makes it clear**

Statements by North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) are not corroborated by transcripts from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) according to North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC).

Representatives of NQCC attended last week's AAT hearing on Abbot Point in Brisbane. They subsequently distributed a media release stating that an NQBP lawyer had told the AAT that it was going to be 'very difficult' to meet the 2015 dredging window for Abbot Point.

Later that day, NQBP refuted the claim. It told journalists that its lawyer's comments in the AAT had been 'taken out of context'.

Today, NQCC provided a copy of the transcript from the AAT hearing (attached).

In the transcript, the lawyer for NQBP explains to the Deputy President of the AAT, "The dredging window is from the beginning of March to the end of June, so that's the dredging window for next year".

The Deputy President, having previously identified the processes required before the dredging can commence, responds, "Well we're not going to meet that, are we?" The NQBP lawyer replies, "Well it's going to be very difficult, yes".

"This is as clear as it can be" says NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

"NQCC is in accord with the Deputy President of the AAT, and is at a loss to understand why NQBP would seek to deny the statements of its lawyers."

"It may be that NQBP is concerned about any impact of missing the dredging window on the backing for its project. This would appear to be supported by the sworn affidavit from a representative of potential port user Adani. In it he claimed that missing the 2015 dredging window could jeopardize Adani's involvement" Ms Tubman said.

The March-June dredging window is one of the conditions imposed by Federal Environment Minister Hunt when he approved the Abbot Point development late last year. The condition was identified as one way to minimise damage to seagrass meadows in the waters of Abbot Point. Seagrass is a basic food for the local population of dugongs.

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