



GLADSTONE PORT EXPANSION THREATENS GBR WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

The recent announcement of the Gladstone Duplication Channel project as a 'significant project' shows the absolute disrespect that the Queensland Government and Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) have for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), its Outstanding Universal Values and the recommendations of UNESCO.

Capricorn Conservation Council Inc. (CCC) is alarmed at this recent announcement and holds grave concerns for the future condition and ecological health of Port Curtis and the GBRWHA. CCC fears the current activities and new proposals in Gladstone Harbour will put the Reef on the World Heritage in Danger list because the '*highly precautionary approach*' is not being adhered to.

CCC Project Officer, Ms Chantelle James, said "In March this year, a reactive monitoring mission by the IUCN and UNESCO World Heritage Centre visited the GBRWHA to investigate the management of World Heritage Property. This mission was triggered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's '*extreme concern*' over the approvals of LNG facilities on Curtis Island."

"Very clear recommendations and conclusions about the management of Gladstone Harbour and Curtis Island and the GBRWHA were identified by the Committee after considering the mission's report in June. Three months on and we are witnessing government and GPC ignoring key statements and recommendations of UNESCO." said Ms James.

"One of the recommendations is for an *independent review of the management arrangements for Gladstone Harbour*. Yet instead of an independent review being announced, it is the announcement of yet another port related project in Gladstone Harbour being granted the green light for significant project status and to produce an Environmental Impact Statement before the Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef is completed."

"So where is the independent review of Gladstone Harbour? And why is this dredging project even being considered or allowed to go through the Environmental Impact Statement process by our Governments whilst the Strategic Assessment is underway?"

"Yet again, the management and approval of marine and coastal development projects in the Gladstone and Port Curtis area are leading us further down the 'reef at risk' and 'reef in danger' path."

"The concerns raised and noted by the mission and considered by the World Heritage Committee (in June) in relation to Gladstone and Curtis Island appear to be currently ignored with the announcement of this new dredging project."

"The mission noted a '*range of unaddressed concerns regarding the protection and management of the port and LNG facilities in Gladstone Harbour and on Curtis Island and... its surrounding environment*' and that it did not appear that the offsets (for approved LNG and dredging projects) are '*appropriate and sufficient mitigation of the impact the facilities have on the property*' and that '*these concerns should be addressed prior to any port development*'."

“These concerns have not been fully addressed and we are witnessing further port development being announced and considered.”

“The water quality, fish and ecological health issues in Gladstone Harbour and Port Curtis are still murky and the current dredging project continues despite 42 environmental incidents, a leaking bund wall, and numerous breaches of permitted turbidity levels. CCC is concerned the proposed duplication channel project will incrementally and cumulatively impact upon the already poor water quality and ecological health of Gladstone Harbour and the outstanding values of the Great Barrier Reef.”

“CCC calls upon the Queensland Government and Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke, to put a moratorium on any new project proposals within or adjacent to the GBRWHA until the Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef is completed and then considered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in June 2015.”

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