



Hummock Hill Island Resort and Residential

Local conservationists have expressed grave concerns about the Hummock Hill Island tourist and residential development approved by the Queensland Government this week. Just off the coast near Tannum Sands, Hummock Hill Island is in the southern section of the Rodds Bay Dugong Sanctuary.

Capricorn Conservation Council Coordinator, Michael McCabe said today, "Large scale coastal projects like that proposed for Hummock Hill Island need to be reviewed in the light of the impacts on coastal ecosystems of recent floods and extreme storm surge events. This project would greatly add to the pressures on the Dugong Sanctuary from the massive dredging of Gladstone Harbour for the LNG industry and expanded coal shipping."

"It is difficult to accept that even with the best environmental controls, a project which would house 4,000 tourists and residents in such a sensitive locality, could avoid causing permanent harm to the environment. The government should cancel the 2041 hectares of mineral sand exploration permits and protect the island as a Resource Reserve under the Nature Conservation Act," Mr McCabe said.

"Dugong populations from Moreton Bay to North Queensland waters may need to migrate long distances in search of healthy sea-grass pastures following the floods. Any threat to the health of feeding areas in Rodds Bay needs serious review to avoid the possibility of population stress."

"CCC welcomes the proposal to ban cats but believes that domestic dogs would also pose a hazard to turtle nests and migratory sea birds on coastal islands. While a bridge would alleviate the problem of the low-tide vehicle crossing, it could provide a path for toads, other feral animals or noxious weeds."

"Our entire coastline is under pressure from population and industrial growth, apart from the uncertain affects of climatic change. Regional Councils and people are feeling powerless to stop such environmentally and financially risky ventures. We urge the Queensland Government to introduce an effective Coastal Plan and the Federal Government to rigorously apply measures to protect our coastline, fish nurseries, and vulnerable species."
