

Subject: Submission for changes in Sustainable Port Development Bill
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2015 6:14:52 PM

Dear Committee Members,

First of all, I am pleased to see the steps taken towards protecting the Great Barrier Reef in the Sustainable Port Development Bill. The ban on sea-dumping of dredge spoil from new port developments, prevention of new ports being built on undeveloped parts of the Reef coast and the restriction on dredging for new port facilities to the four existing major ports are all welcomed. However, to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef is safe from additional strain and harm, stronger legal protection is needed.

For all who value the health and safety of the Great Barrier Reef and the marine life it supports, we urge you to amend the bill to eliminate loopholes which allows for other damaging developments. The Sustainable Port Development Bill leaves the door open to ship-to-ship transfer of coal in Reef waters, dumping by other big developments like marinas and it does nothing to reduce the harmful impacts of dredging and dumping.

Australia wants the Queensland government to fulfill their promises they made prior to Queensland elections regarding Reef commitments (as any promise made regarding a national treasure should be made to the nation, not just the state), and I believe that your input into the Bill will help safeguard the Reef from small details that threaten to cause irreversible damage.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Randini Dissanayake

