



Subject:

Submission for changes in Sustainable Port Development Bill

Date:

Thursday, 25 June 2015 2:05:26 PM

Dear Committee Members,

The Great Barrier Reef is special to me, and to all Australians, and it deserves strong legal protection. That's why I'm pleased to support the steps taken in the Sustainable Port Development Bill to:

- Ban sea-dumping of dredge spoil from new port developments.
- Prevent new ports being built on undeveloped parts of the Reef coast.
- Restrict dredging for new port facilities to the four major port areas.

But there's a few things missing! We urge you to amend the draft laws to close these loopholes and fulfil the promises that Premier Palaszczuk made to Queenslanders before the state election:

- Ban trans-shipping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Reduce the impacts of maintenance dredging and dumping.
- Limit dredging and dumping for developments outside ports, like marinas or boat ramps. Further to this, I urge you to increase GBR protection by including the following in the new Sustainable Port Development Bill:

- A total ban on dumping dredging spoils in the sea, even maintenance dredging.
- A ban on widening existing shipping channels which would cause an increase in width or depth of maintenance dredging, e.g. the Cairns shipping channels. There are existing alternatives for bigger cruise ships to remain offshore and use smaller ships and tenders to ferry people to the marina, like is the practice in Port Douglas and Yorkies Knob.
- Despite any election statements made, I am of the opinion there is mounting evidence to justify (and explain) a change in position regarding developing any new coal mining or extending any existing coal mining: coal mining is a dying industry and any government money invested in it or in any related infrastructure (like ports) is a waste of tax payers money and resources. It is both economically and environmentally unsustainable.
- Investment in upgrading existing ports to be able to handle ship waste (sewage) in a sustainable way, e.g. Cairns does not have facilities to pump out waste with the embarrassing consequence that this waste gets dumped in the GBR.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Halenko

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