

Submission to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Queensland Government on the Sustainable Ports Development Bill

2nd July 2015

Thank you for considering my individual non-qualified member of the lay public submission.

I rely heavily on the information provided to me by the network in and beyond Queensland of active conservationists and critics of the development of policy both at federal and state level to further fossil fuel resource development as is relevant to the coastal and inland areas of the Great Barrier Reef. In listening both to the development of anti-resource rape analysis in the last 18 months relevant to what is driving Queensland's enthusiasm for progressing the coal industry and to the background trade-off for the original reef's health card status, I am led to add my voice though not well explained nor filled with technical detail.

I note the degree of desperation to affect political feedback that occurred in Queensland's election in January 2015 and believe many, many sympathetic residents in major tourist destinations as exist in the type of coastal resorts, interactive reef operations and associated businesses do not feel confident about the employment promises for construction and mining positions that will be the manifestation of the labour for overseas investors and cause more demise of our special ecosystem wonderland off the coast between Gladstone and the Cape. Whilst small coastal towns desperate for more money circulating through their economies hope for a reboom through resource rip up, a growing number of Australians are aware of the coal price slide, its impact on the poverty of return for the launch of the biggest coal mine in Australia, Carmichael and the collateral damage that will result due to the 'spin' of property and mining development advocates.

To continue on the original plan of 'big is better', necessitating the capital dredging and the maintenance dredging for freighters exporting coal and other product from our shores, I would definitely side with the arguments that I know will be included in submissions from Mackay Conservation Group, Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Marine Conservation Society and many other well readied, diligent researchers of the full picture to long term and possibly irreversible degradation of reef habitats and subtler ecosystems. A concept of economic shots in the arm through wooing entities with records of overt corruption in their own country of origin, suggests to me trying to justify the risk of contaminated illicit substances all for a worsening addiction for public perception of polished performance playing the big time. If the contaminants used to cut the 'stuff' such as for example wildly inappropriate estimates of job creation and fat royalty pays (in launching a la Adani) don't give the expected hit not only the reef's strength in delivering its share of our wealth is worsened, so is our balance of dollars in our economy, as expectations are not able to be realised.

Again I admit there are no hard core figures within this small yelp as I take a turn getting attention, but many of contemporary Australia's consumers are becoming disillusioned with the rosy picture painted a few years ago for coal projects knowing the future though a slower momentum toward

the renewable energy revolution for Australia is far more long sighted as is being validated in so many other constituencies.

I also expect that the fairness to the uninitiated lay public of open and accessible documenting of submissions and with regard to all of the process by which decisions from the Committee's proceedings occur will reflect a new age in public accountability, a distinct change from the hiding or camouflaging of process so typical in the last years of the previous Queensland State government.

Ms Roslyn Blackwood

