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**SUBMISSION FOR THE INQUIRY INTO  
SUSTAINABLE PORTS DEVELOPMENT BILL 2015 (The BILL)**

Closing date for written submissions is **Thursday 2 July 2015 by 4.00pm**

**FROM**

**NORSHIP MARINE**

56-62 Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns Qld 4870

Attention: Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: [ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

On behalf of Norship Marine,

**As a major local employer and marine services provider, Norship Marine oppose any restrictions on capital dredging on the Port of Cairns. Norship Marine truly values the regions reef and rainforest. We firmly believe that capital and maintenance dredging of the Port of Cairns can be undertaken whilst still protecting the reef and the adjacent estuarine habitat.**

Our ship repair and construction operations rely totally on ships that use the port. The ships we service include all manner of commercial, customs, Defence and private vessels (mega yachts) that require unrestricted access into Cairns Port and have a vested interest in maintaining the health and ecology of the port and the environs.

Environmental dredging of the Port of Cairns is indeed possible utilizing newly available dewatering and other technologies as developed in Europe, without the need for seabed disposal. These methods would realize land values of selected land disposal site(s) and ensure its usage in a relatively short period.

The future of Cairns as a gateway to a fast growing regional area depends heavily on a fully functional and thriving port to contribute to job creation and economic diversification. All four pillars of the Queensland Government's enshrined community objectives contain points of failure imposed on the Cairns community should unnecessary restrictions be placed on improving and maintaining the Port of Cairns in a sustainable and ecological manner.

Cairns Seaport is a multi-purpose regional port that caters for a diverse range of customers from bulk and general cargo, cruise shipping, fishing fleet and reef passenger ferries. In terms of vessel numbers and movements it is a significant port for Queensland.

The Port's bulk cargo includes petroleum products, sugar, molasses, fertilizer and liquid petroleum gas. The Port has long been the natural consolidation and redistribution center for supplies that are shipped to the coastal communities north of Cairns as well as the Torres Strait Islands and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Port is a supply and service Centre for the Freeport mine operations in Indonesia with regular mine servicing shipping operations out of the Port. The Port has extensive land holdings that are leased to Seaport customers and is home to one of Australia's largest fishing fleets.

The Port offers extensive and experienced ship building and repair services with a number of slipways and dry docks up to 3,000 T capacity for a diverse range of ship maintenance requirements. Thousands of people are currently employed in these and related industries.

The Port of Cairns is one of the country's busiest cruise destinations with major international cruise ships scheduled annually and its vast array of domestic reef vessels operating on a daily basis. This modern, sophisticated city with its extensive shopping and dining experiences, magnificent mountain backdrop and direct access to the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage Tropical Rainforests makes Cairns an extremely attractive cruise and fly/cruise port. The terminal, located in the heart of the City, is an easy walk to downtown shopping and Cairns International Airport is located just 8 kilometers from the City.

The large domestic reef vessel fleet is treasured and provides for the Great Barrier Reef experiences that are highly regarded by visitors.

The Port environment is unique and expansion is required to deliver the governments objectives. **To achieve this Cairns must be considered and treated as a 'Priority Port', a ban on capital dredging must be opposed, the EIS must be reviewed in the context of new technologies (and on shore disposal of spoil) and new technologies must be employed to realize the benefits of Port development, whilst ensuring the sustainability of any such development (without an adverse impact on our treasured Great Barrier Reef).**

The balance of the Queensland government's objectives for the community, between 'creating jobs and a diverse economy' and 'protecting the environment' can be achieved.

Yours Sincerely,



**Olav Groot**  
CEO Norship Marine