From: Anonymous respondent - sch4p4(6) Personal information
Sent: Friday, 25 April 2014 10:38 PM
To: InfoEHP
Subject: Comment sch4p4(6) Personal information

Comment sch4p4(6) Personal information

Section 1 - Comment

Provide your comment in the box below.*

- Your reef facts ad on TV is total bullshit. Qld is in despair of your total dishonesty and disrespect for the reef. Liberal party has no capacity to protect the reef you are totally in the pockets of mining industry. Disgusting and embarrassing.

Name and location of the person you have been dealing with in the department, if applicable.

- Coal not reef Newman

Section 2 - Your contact details

Name:*

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Phone:*

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Email:

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Postal address:*

sch4p4(6) Personal information

CSV DATA

Survey version: 1.0

Date,Time,Q1[1],Q1[2],Q2[1],Q2[2],Q2[3],Q2[4]

2014-04-25,10:37pm,Your reef facts ad on TV is total bullshit. Qld is in despair of your total dishonesty and disrespect for the reef.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

MECS
(CTS No. 09980/14)
FINALISED
(CS - EHP/NPRSR CLIENT ENGAGEMENT UNIT)

CTS No: 09980/14 *Currently Assigned To:* Corro CS EHPN *DUE:*

Concerning: Corro sch4p4(6) Personal information Your reef facts ad on TV is total bullshit

Campaign: *Templates:*

Security Classification: No Security *Ack Letter Template:*

Organisational Entity: EHP

Attachments
View Comment

Related Correspondence
No related correspondence

My Recently Opened Items
09980/14 - Corro sch4p4(6) Personal information Your reef facts ad on
11598/14 - REEF FACTS CAMPAIGN
11981/14 - Great Barrier Reef / Ben and Jerry's campaign
10061/14 - Reef Facts website / campaign is authorised /

CLIENTS (1)

Role	Name	Client Type	Organisation/Company	Post code	Locality	Primary
Original Correspondent	sch4p4(6) Personal information	PUB - Member of the Public				Yes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER DETAILS

Reply to Name: *Position:*

Reply To Org:

Reply to Address:

Regarding:

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

Business Area: CS - EHP/NPRSR ADG *Business Unit:* CS - ADG's Office

Action Type: Comment for noting only

Redraft Reason:

Executive Contact: Corro CS EHPNPRSR DI *Agency Author:*

INVOLVEMENT DETAILS

COMMENTS

DATES

Created: 28/04/14 *Dated:* 25/04/14

Received: 28/04/14

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Draft Due to CS - EHP/NPRSR Client Engagement Unit:		*Draft Received by CS - EHP/NPRSR Client Engagement Unit:*	28/04/14
		Date Sent for Signoff:	
Due Signatory:		*Sent for Redraft:*	
Signed:		*Finalised:*	28/04/14
YOUR DUE DATE:		*EC Officer Allocated:*	28/04/14

frmFinalisedItemSuper - 4.0.1516.0

GENERAL DETAILS

SIGNATORIES

Select the next Signatory:		*Due Date:*	
Date Submitted:		*Date Received:*	

Current Signatories

Signatory	Due Date	Date Completed	Submitted To	Received From

Default Signatories

Signatory	Response Due

INFORMATION OFFICERS

Pending Information Officers

For Information	Details

COMMENTS LIST

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
28/04/14 12:51	LANDS\StuartK	Information Accepted and Item Finalised by STUART Kellie (who was acting for: Corro CS EHPNPRSR Comms)
28/04/14 12:51	LANDS\StuartK	Workflow was CCd to WATERS Kerry for Information by STUART Kellie (who was acting for: Corro CS EHPNPRSR Comms) with the following instructions: .
28/04/14 11:34	LANDS\Fisher_B	Allocated to Corro CS EHPNPRSR Comms by FISHER Barbara (who was acting for: Corro CS EHPNPRSR DDG) for Information Only. Comment for noting then accept information to finalise.
28/04/14 09:59	LANDS\mitchega	Allocated to Corro CS EHPNPRSR DDG by MITCHELL Garry (who was acting for: Client Engagement Unit) for Information Only.
28/04/14 09:56	LANDS\mitchega	Original email attached
28/04/14 09:54	LANDS\mitchega	The attached comment has been received and registered in accordance with the complaints, comments and compliments management policy and procedure. A comment under the current policy is for

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
		noting only and is used to record and collate feedback from the public. Generally a response to a comment is not required but the delegated business area can contact the customer if more information is required or if deemed necessary or for good customer service. An acknowledgement email has already been sent to the customer, where an email address was provided, advising them of: - a CTS reference number - that their feedback has been forwarded to the appropriate area - that there may be no further contact
28/04/14 09:50	LANDS\mitchega	Item created by MITCHELL Garry

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RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Ref CTS 10061/14

16 MAY 2014

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dear sch4p4(6) Personal information

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2014 concerning the Reef Facts website. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, launched the Reef Facts campaign in April 2014 to cut through some of the misinformation circulating about the Great Barrier Reef and put the facts on the table. You can find a wealth of information on the website at <www.reeffacts.qld.gov.au> or join the Facebook page to get regular updates.

The advertising campaign to which you refer has been created and authorised by the Queensland Resources Council (QRC), and actioned fully independently of the Queensland Government. The Queensland Government has not had any involvement or provided funding towards this campaign. I encourage anyone, be they members of the broader community or an industry association, to access the Reef Facts website so they can be properly informed about the real threats to the Great Barrier Reef and how they are being managed.

There has been a lot of media attention on port development adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef recently and it is important that these activities are put into perspective and the Reef Facts website does just that. Recent scientific evidence from the Australian Institute of Marine Science shows coral cover has halved since 1985 and that the main causes have been cyclones and storm damage (48%), Crown of Thorns starfish (42%) and coral bleaching (10%).

The 2013 scientific consensus statement on water quality, prepared by 40 leading scientists, indicates that the greatest water quality risks to the Great Barrier Reef are from nitrogen discharge, linked to Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks and fine sediment discharge, which reduces the light available to seagrass and inshore reefs. The main source of excess nutrients and fine sediments is runoff from agricultural areas. Relative to agriculture, other sources of pollutants such as urban and ports development are minor.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

While there is little that can be done to prevent storms, cyclones and bleaching events, the Queensland Government can, and is, working to improve catchment runoff. The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, a joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian Governments, has been addressing this issue since 2003 and has demonstrated that positive change can be achieved. For example, the most recent reef report card showed that in the years 2009–2011, improved land management practices reduced sediment loads entering the reef by an estimated 6%. There was also a 13% reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, the key pollutant thought to trigger Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks. While these numbers may sound small, this is a massive achievement after a long history of continuing declines in water quality. This report card confirms that management change and water quality improvements are on a positive trajectory. If you would like to read more about this initiative and the progress being made by farmers and graziers, you can do so online at <www.reefplan.qld.gov.au>.

Ports, shipping, tourism and fishing were all major activities in the Great Barrier Reef region well before it was listed as a World Heritage site in 1981, and the scientific evidence shows that their impact on the reef ecosystem has been quite small. For example, stringent monitoring undertaken during the last dredging campaign at Hay Point (larger than what is proposed for Abbot Point) showed that there was no significant impact, and the sediment plume was less than what was predicted through modelling. While there has been significant growth in recent years, it is important to remember that there are only four major industrial ports on a stretch of coastline more than 2300km long, equal in length to the entire west coast of the USA from the Canadian to the Mexican borders.

Under the draft Queensland Ports Strategy, port development in the Great Barrier Reef will be restricted to the key long-established ports — Townsville, Abbot Point, Hay Point/Mackay and Gladstone — for at least the next 10 years. This is consistent with the request by the World Heritage Committee.

The Port of Abbot Point has been operating as a coal export terminal since 1984 with no significant impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Following its election in 2012, the Newman Government took immediate action to reject massive development plans at Abbot Point under consideration by the previous government. This decision reduced the need for dredging within the port from 38 million cubic metres to the 3 million cubic metres recently approved by the Australian Government.

Dredging work and sediment disposal is subject to strict conditions to prevent impacts. For example, dredging will only be permitted to take place between 1 March and 30 June each year to protect water quality during critical times for seagrass growth and coral spawning. The four square kilometre area where the dredge material is to be disposed does not contain any hard coral or seagrass and is 39 to 44 metres deep. It is located 40km away from the nearest offshore reef. On top of this, the port operator is required to fund initiatives to reduce river-borne loads equivalent to 150% of the fine sediment portion of the dredged material.

The recent approval of the Abbot Point expansion by the Australian Government is the product of Australia's most comprehensive assessment process of this kind and has produced some of the strictest environmental conditions in Australia's history. This is right and proper given that we are protecting Australia's most important natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Release

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the best managed coral reef ecosystems in the world. It is possible to have development, economic growth and jobs, and protect this wonderful environmental asset at the same time. The Reef Facts website outlines what the Queensland Government is doing to keep it that way.

The Minister hopes this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Claire Andersen, Director, Adaptation Strategy of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on telephone (07) 3330 5757.

Yours sincerely

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Erin Phillips

From: donotreply_webcontactform@cabinet.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 24 April 2014 9:54 PM
To: Environment
Subject: Reef Facts advertising campaign

Importance: High

Cabinet Contact email for Andrew Powell MP Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Subject: Reef Facts advertising campaign
Title: Mr
First Name: sch4p4(6) Personal information
Family Name: sch4p4(6) Personal information
Email:
Phone: sch4p4(6) Personal information

Address:
Town:
State: sch4p4(6) Personal information
Postcode
Email:

Comment:

Dear Mr Powell

I have tonight seen the 'Reef Facts' advertising campaign featuring the www.reeffacts.qld.gov.au website.

I note the campaign is authorised (and therefore presumably funded) by the Queensland Resources Council (QRC).

While an organisation may choose to refer people to an existing Queensland Government website as a resource for further information, I am interested in better understanding the relationship between this website and the QRC.

To this end, I hope you can advise on the following:

- What role does the QRC have in relation to deciding, editing, formatting or approving the content of the Reef Facts website?
- What funding has the QRC provided to the Queensland Government to establish and maintain the Reef Facts website?
- Did the QRC seek permission from the Queensland Government to refer to the Reef Facts website in its campaign? If so, who provided authorisation on behalf of the government?
- Is the Queensland Government contributing to the cost of the Reef Facts advertising campaign or any associated campaign using commercial print, TV or radio media?

I look forward to your prompt response.

Regards

sch4p4(6) Personal information

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

14/1/2014

MECS
(CTS No. 10061/14)
FINALISED
(EHP - MINISTER)

CTS No: 10061/14 *Currently Assigned To:* EHP - Minister *DUE:* 1/05/14

Concerning: Reef Facts website / campaign is authorised / Queensland Resources Council QRC / queries relationship between government and QRC

Campaign:

Template: EHP - Chief of Staff lette

Security Classification: EHP - Unrestricted

Ack Letter Template:

Organisational Entity: EHP

Attachments
View| Finalising signed reply to Bryant
View| Finalising Draft Reply
View| Finalising 10061/14 - REQUEST - Incoming Letter

Related Correspondence
No related correspondence

My Recently Opened Items
09980/14 - Comment sch4p4(6) Personal information
sch4p4(6) Personal information
reef facts ad on**11598/14** - REEF FACTS CAMPAIGN**11981/14** - Great Barrier Reef / Ben and Jerry's campaign**10061/14** - Reef Facts website / campaign is authorised /

CLIENTS (1)

Role	Name	Client Type	Organisation/Company	Post code	Locality	Primary
Original Correspondent	sch4p4(6) Personal information	PUB - Member of the Public		4121		Yes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER DETAILS

Reply to Name: *Position:*

Reply To Org:

Reply to Address:

Regarding: The Reef Facts website

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

Business Area: EHP - EPP DDG *Business Unit:* EPP - EWQ

Action Type: Min - Request for Reply

Redraft Reason:

Executive Contact: Corro EHP EPP DDG *Agency Author:* DARCY Rachel

INVOLVEMENT DETAILS

COMMENTS

DATES

Created: 28/04/14 *Dated:* 24/04/14

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

frmFinalisedItemSuper - 4.0.1516.0

Received:	28/04/14		
Draft Due to EHP - Minister:	14/05/14	*Draft Received by EHP - Minister:*	08/05/14
		Date Sent for Signoff:	13/05/14
Due Signatory:		*Sent for Redraft:*	
Signed:		*Finalised:*	16/05/14
YOUR DUE DATE:	14/05/14	*EC Officer Allocated:*	30/04/14

GENERAL DETAILS

External Reference No:		*Thesaurus No:*	
Classification:	Seeking Information	*Locality:*	General

SIGNATORIES

Select the next Signatory:		*Due Date:*	
Date Submitted:		*Date Received:*	21/05/14

Current Signatories

Signatory	*Due Date*	*Date Completed*	*Submitted To*	*Received From*
EHP - Minister		21/05/14	13/05/14	21/05/14

Default Signatories

Signatory	*Response Due*

INFORMATION OFFICERS

Pending Information Officers

For Information	*Details*

COMMENTS LIST

Date Added	*Added By*	*COMMENT HISTORY*
21/05/14 16:40	LANDS\TaylorE	Finalised by TAYLOR Erin (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) signed reply is dated 16/5/14 emailed PM today
20/05/14 09:23	LANDS\bakerla	Reply signed by CoS dated 16/05/14, fwd to MECU for final processing.
14/05/14 09:10	LANDS\bakerla	Receipt acknowledged in SignOff by BAKER-LOWE Andrew (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) Item received in MO, with CoS
13/05/14 14:49	LANDS\TaylorE	Item was submitted for SignOff to EHP - Minister submitted for CoS signature PM today
08/05/14 15:18	LANDS\TaylorE	with MECU for processing
08/05/14 15:09	LANDS\fiedleh	FIEDLER Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) (EC)Approved Workflow Item. Approved by A/DDG EPP. Thanks, Harry

sch4p4(6) Personal information

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
08/05/14 14:02	LANDS\fiedleh	Re-subnmitted for A/DDG EPP approval.
08/05/14 13:29	LANDS\darcyr	Hi Julie, letter now updated with input from Peter, but no change to the standard response except to add "draft" for ports strategy, Rachel
08/05/14 13:29	LANDS\darcyr	Workflow was CCd to CLEMENTS Julie (EHP);CLEMENTS Julie (EHP) for Information by D'ARCY Rachel (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
08/05/14 13:25	LANDS\darcyr	Workflow was CCd to ANDERSEN Claire for Information by D'ARCY Rachel (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
08/05/14 13:24	LANDS\darcyr	Hi Claire, The reply letter has been edited to reflect Peter H at DPC's changes to the first 2 paragraphs and to include the word 'draft' for Qld Ports Strategy. No other changes to the standard approved response have been made. Rachel
08/05/14 10:43	LANDS\darcyr	Workflow was CCd to HALL Lucy;KENYON Kirstin for Information by D'ARCY Rachel (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
06/05/14 16:05	LANDS\clemenj	Hi Claire, can you please confirm that this response has been via Peter at DPC? Thanks, Julie.
06/05/14 16:05	LANDS\clemenj	Workflow was CCd to Corro EHP EPP DDG;ANDERSEN Claire for Information by CLEMENTS Julie (EHP) (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
06/05/14 14:04	LANDS\jensench	Submitted to DDG for approval thanks Chloe Jensen
06/05/14 12:18	LANDS\reaj	Approval applied for by REA Jessica (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP EWQ) to Corro EHP EPP DDG.
06/05/14 12:09	LANDS\AndersenCM	Approval applied for by ANDERSEN Claire (who was the CAP) to Corro EHP EPP EWQ. approved with changes. To A/DDG for consideration and approval. Claire
02/05/14 14:53	LANDS\darcyr	Approval applied for by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) to ANDERSEN Claire. Hi Claire, response letter prepared - using the agreed reef facts response, plus two paragraphs at the front end responding directly to the incoming questions, Rachel
02/05/14 14:51	LANDS\darcyr	Responsibility Accepted by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister.
01/05/14 10:28	LANDS\AndersenCM	Allocated to DARCY Rachel by ANDERSEN Claire (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister. Rachel - can you please draft a reply. Claire
30/04/14 15:58	LANDS\fiedleh	Allocated to ANDERSEN Claire by FIEDLER Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) for Response for EHP - Minister. Hi Claire, Please prepare a reply for CoS signature. Your response is due to Corro EHP EPP DDG for approval by COB Wednesday 7 May 2014. Thanks, Harry.
30/04/14 15:58	LANDS\fiedleh	Workflow was CCd to REA Jessica for Information by FIEDLER Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
30/04/14 15:33	LANDS\UferC	Allocated to Corro EHP EPP DDG by UFER Cathy (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) for Response for EHP - Minister. Prepare reply for Troy Collings - due to MECU by 14/05/14
28/04/14 16:04	LANDS\bakerla	Item created by BAKER-LOWE Andrew

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

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Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Ref CTS 07173/14

14 APR 2014

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dear sch4p4(6) Personal information

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2014 concerning the 'Reef Facts' website and information available regarding the Great Barrier Reef. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

There has been a lot of media attention on port development adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef recently and it is important that these activities are put into perspective. Recent scientific evidence from the Australian Institute of Marine Science shows coral cover has halved since 1985 and that the main causes have been cyclones and storm damage (48%), Crown of Thorns starfish (42%) and coral bleaching (10%).

The 2013 scientific consensus statement on water quality, prepared by 40 leading scientists, indicates that the greatest water quality risks to the Great Barrier Reef are from nitrogen discharge, linked to Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks and fine sediment discharge, which reduces the light available to seagrass and inshore reefs. The main source of excess nutrients and fine sediments is runoff from agricultural areas. Relative to agriculture, other sources of pollutants such as urban and ports development are minor.

While there is little that can be done to prevent storms, cyclones and bleaching events, the Queensland Government can, and is, working to improve catchment runoff. The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, a joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian governments, has been addressing this issue since 2003 and has demonstrated that positive change can be achieved. For example, the most recent reef report card showed that in the years 2009–2011, improved land management practices reduced sediment loads entering the reef by an estimated 6%. There was also a 13% reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, the key pollutant thought to trigger Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks. While these numbers may sound small, this is a massive achievement after a long history of continuing declines in water quality. This report card confirms that management change and water quality improvements are on a positive trajectory. If you would like to read more about this initiative and the progress being made by farmers and graziers, you can do so online at <www.reefplan.qld.gov.au>.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Ports, shipping, tourism and fishing were all major activities in the Great Barrier Reef region well before it was listed as a World Heritage site in 1981, and the scientific evidence shows that their impact on the reef ecosystem has been quite small. For example, stringent monitoring undertaken during the last dredging campaign at Hay Point (larger than what is proposed for Abbot Point) showed that there was no significant impact, and the sediment plume was less than what was predicted through modelling. While there has been significant growth in recent years, it is important to remember that there are only four major industrial ports on a stretch of coastline more than 2300km long, equal in length to the entire west coast of the USA from the Canadian to the Mexican borders.

Under the Queensland Ports Strategy, port development in the Great Barrier Reef will be restricted to the key long-established ports — Townsville, Abbot Point, Hay Point/Mackay and Gladstone — for at least the next 10 years. This is consistent with the request by the World Heritage Committee.

The Port of Abbot Point has been operating as a coal export terminal since 1984 with no significant impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Following its election in 2012, the Newman Government took immediate action to reject massive development plans at Abbot Point under consideration by the previous government. This decision reduced the need for dredging within the port from 38 million cubic metres to the 3 million cubic metres recently approved by the Australian Government.

Dredging work and sediment disposal is subject to strict conditions to prevent impacts. For example, dredging will only be permitted to take place between 1 March and 30 June each year to protect water quality during critical times for seagrass growth and coral spawning. The 4 square kilometre area where the dredge material is to be disposed does not contain any hard coral or seagrass and is 39–44 metres deep. It is located 40km away from the nearest offshore reef. On top of this, the port operator is required to fund initiatives to reduce river-borne loads equivalent to 150% of the fine sediment portion of the dredged material.

The recent approval of the Abbot Point expansion by the Australian Government is the product of Australia's most comprehensive assessment process of this kind and has produced some of the strictest environmental conditions in Australia's history. This is right and proper given that we are protecting Australia's most important natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the best managed coral reef ecosystems in the world. It is possible to have development, economic growth and jobs, and protect this wonderful environmental asset at the same time. The Reef Facts website outlines what the Queensland Government is doing to keep it that way. The website does not link to every article in 'The Conversation' on the Great Barrier Reef, as this would be impractical, but it does seek to highlight key articles that point out some of the misinformation currently being spread.

The Minister hopes this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Claire Andersen, Director, Strategic Policy Services of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on telephone 3330 5757.

Yours sincerely

sch4-Signature

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Erin Phillips

From: sch4p4(6) Personal information
Sent: Sunday, 23 March 2014 8:55 AM
To: Environment
Subject: FW: selective

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Andrew

Being selective a bit Andrew?

Here is a list of the articles from The Conversation with reference to The Great Barrier Reef

https://theconversation.com/topics/great-barrier-reef

here are the only two of those Conversation articles listed by the reefacts website and endorsed by Andrew Powell, QLD environment minister yesterday, only the ones they publish there it would seem

http://www.reeffacts.qld.gov.au/media-room/

rgds

sch4p4(6) Personal information

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

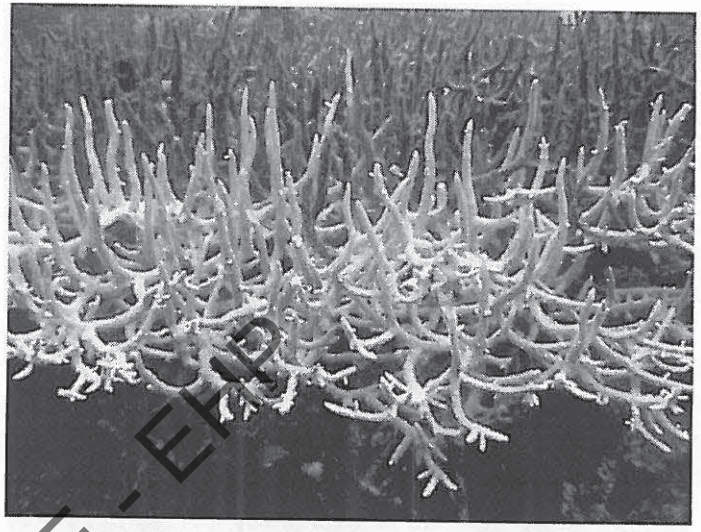
Analysis and Comment (38)

Bigger picture: the Great Barrier Reef seen from the Landsat satellite. Bigger picture: the Great Barrier Reef seen from the Landsat satellite. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/Wikimedia Commons

The battle over Abbot Point risks losing the Great Barrier Reef war

By Alison Jones

"Save the reef" has become a popular catch-cry among many environment groups, with Greenpeace's Great Barrier Reef website shared more than 125,000 times on social media to date. It and many similar campaigns...

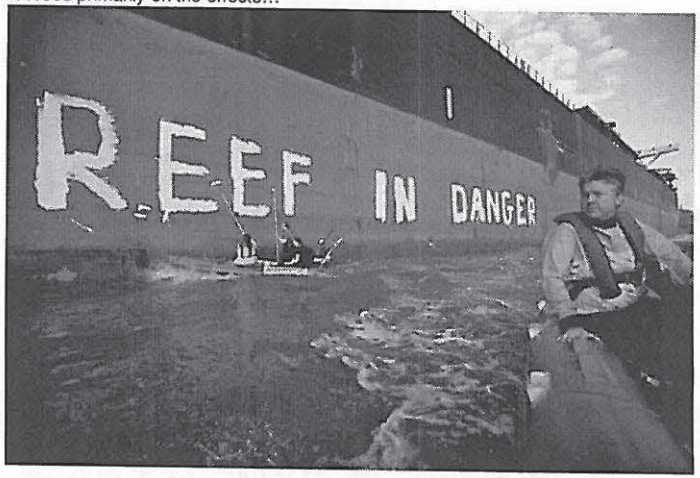


Coral bleaching is one of the more obvious signs the Great Barrier Reef is in trouble. Coral bleaching is one of the more obvious signs the Great Barrier Reef is in trouble. mattk1979/Flickr

Is Australia shooting itself in the foot with reef port expansions?

By Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

With the approval of dredging as part of the Abbot Point port expansion, Australia has given the green light to an increase in coal exports. While opposition to the plan has focused primarily on the effects...



Protesters are furious at recent decisions over the Great Barrier Reef, but how much power does its official guardian have? Protesters are furious at recent decisions over the Great Barrier Reef, but how much power does its official guardian have? AAP Image/Supplied by Greenpeace

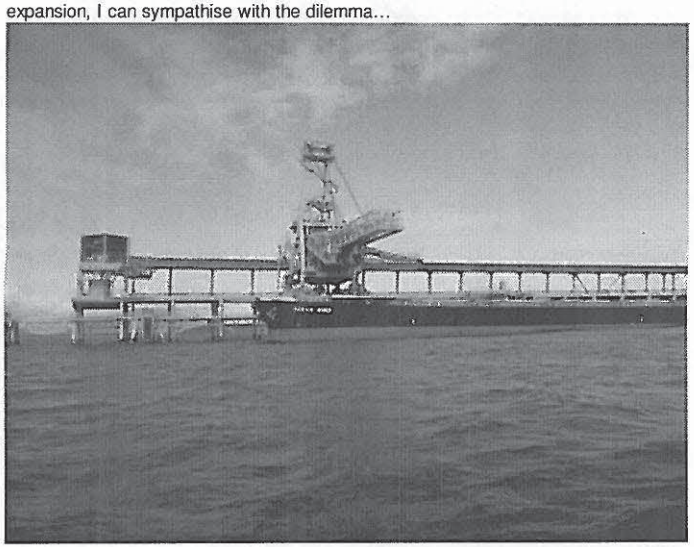
Reef authority caught between the

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

devil and the deep blue sea

By Ian McPhail, *University of Southern Queensland*

Seeing the fierce debate sparked by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority chairman's recent article on The Conversation about the Abbot Point coal port expansion, I can sympathise with the dilemma...



Already operating as a coal port, the disposal of dredge material from expanding Abbot Point is now the subject of a legal challenge. Already operating as a coal port, the disposal of dredge material from expanding Abbot Point is now the subject of a legal challenge. GBRMPA

Let's dump Great Barrier Reef dredging myths: authority chief

By Russell Reichelt, *James Cook University*

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's recent decision to allow 3 million cubic metres of dredge material to be disposed of 25 kilometres off Abbot Point in north Queensland has attracted passionate...

Greg Hunt, and all environment ministers past and future, could be protected from legal challenge over mining approvals. Greg Hunt, and all environment ministers past and future, could be protected from legal challenge over mining approvals. AAP Image/Alan Porritt

Australia's environment minister could soon be above the law

By Gregory McIntyre, *University of Notre Dame*

Earlier this month, a Senate inquiry paved the way for the Parliament to give Environment Minister Greg Hunt legal immunity against future legal challenges to his decisions on mining projects. If it passes...

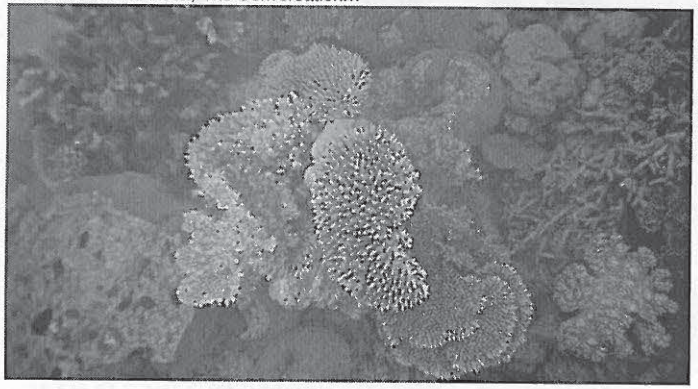
No matter how well a country like New Zealand protects its borders, introduced species will sneak in. No matter how well a country like New Zealand protects its borders, introduced species will sneak in. Queensland University of Technology

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

A hitchhiker's ride to New Zealand: alien voyages by sea and air

By Rebecca Priestley, *Victoria University of Wellington*

Historically, geographically, culturally – there are many points of comparison between Australia and its neighbour to the east, New Zealand. But there are notable differences. This week, The Conversation...



Fragile beauty: the Great Barrier Reef. Fragile beauty: the Great Barrier Reef. Flickr/Paul D'Ambra - Australia

Australia courting danger with the Great Barrier Reef

By Barbara Norman, *University of Canberra*

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has announced it will allow the dumping of three million cubic metres of dredge spoil from the Abbot Point port redevelopment within the marine park's boundaries...

Dredging at Abbot Point will create three million cubic metres of spoil. Dredging at Abbot Point will create three million cubic metres of spoil. AAP

There is no need to dump Abbot Point's dredge spoil on the reef

By Jon Brodie, *James Cook University*

By the end of this week we will know whether the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will allow dredge spoil from the Abbot Point port redevelopment to be dumped within the park's boundaries. The...

Beautiful one day ... a quarry the next? Beautiful one day ... a quarry the next? Underwater Earth / Catlin Seaview Survey - www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com

Great Barrier Reef decision is a U-turn to an inglorious past

By Iain McCalman, *University of Sydney*

Few of us remember that the declaration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its subsequent World Heritage status was born out a 12-year popular struggle to prevent the most wondrous coral reef in...

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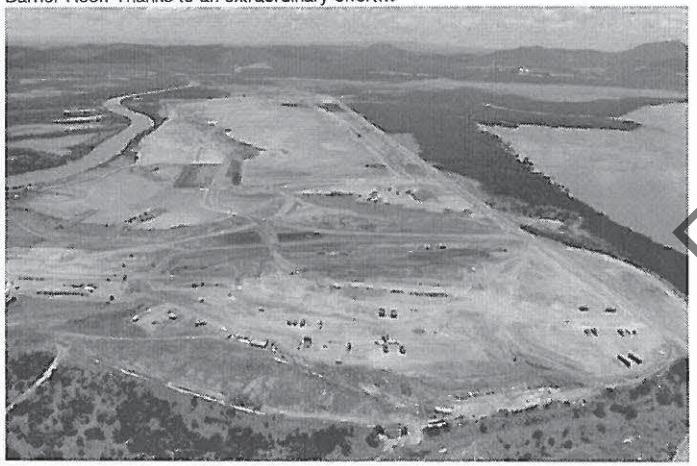
A scuba diving tourist feeds a giant potato cod in the Great Barrier Reef. A scuba diving tourist feeds a giant potato cod in the Great Barrier Reef. Pete Niesen/Shutterstock.com

Dredging set to swamp decades of Great Barrier Reef protection

By Jon Brodie, *James Cook University*

After decades of work, A$200 million in taxpayer funding and even more from farmers' pockets, we finally have a rare good news story to tell about the Great Barrier Reef. Thanks to an extraordinary effort...

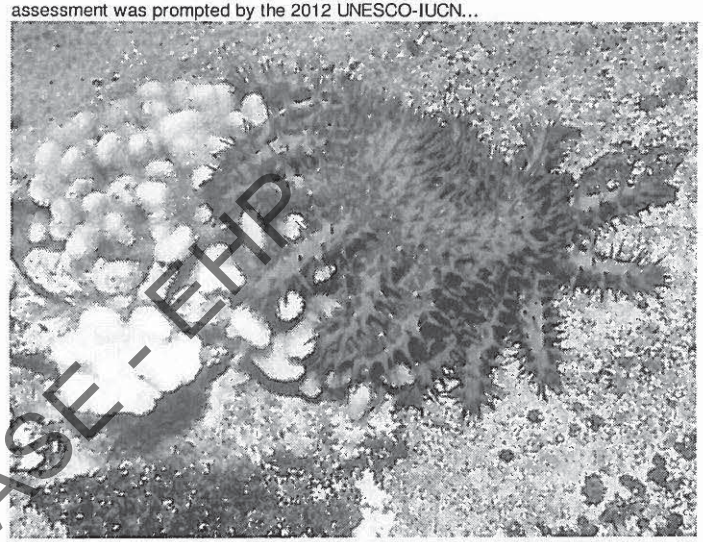


Port developments shouldn't be assessed individually. Port developments shouldn't be assessed individually. AAP Image/Dave Hunt

It all adds up: port development on the Great Barrier Reef

By Alana Grech; Bob Pressey, *James Cook University*, and Rob Coles, *James Cook University*

The Queensland and Australian government's draft strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area has been released today. The strategic assessment was prompted by the 2012 UNESCO-IUCN...



Crown of Thorns is one threat on the reef, but it's not the only threat. Crown of Thorns is one threat on the reef, but it's not the only threat. Flickr/Nemo's great uncle

Should offsets fund the Coalition's reef plan?

By Melissa Bos, *James Cook University*

On Monday, the Coalition announced its plan for the Great Barrier Reef, including a A$40m trust-fund to target threats to the Reef such as Crown of Thorns starfish and runoff from agriculture. The promises...

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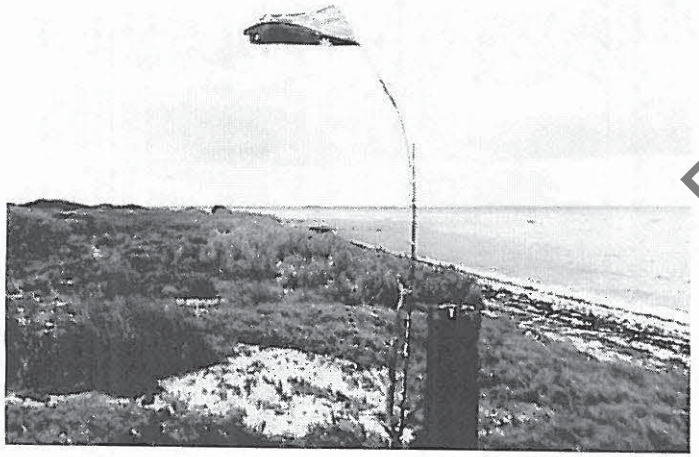
Release

Calling something protected isn't enough to protect it. Calling something protected isn't enough to protect it. AAP Image/Australian Institute for Marine Science

Governments are not protecting the Great Barrier Reef

By Bob Kearney, *University of Canberra*

Announcements last week of the escalating damage to the Great Barrier Reef confirm Australia's most famous and intensely managed Marine Protected Area has not been properly protected. UNESCO's recent review...



Our environment is an important part of Australia's national identity. Our environment is an important part of Australia's national identity. Shawn Smith

Using national pride to protect our environment

By Nadine Marshall, *CSIRO* and Jeremy Goldberg, *James Cook University*

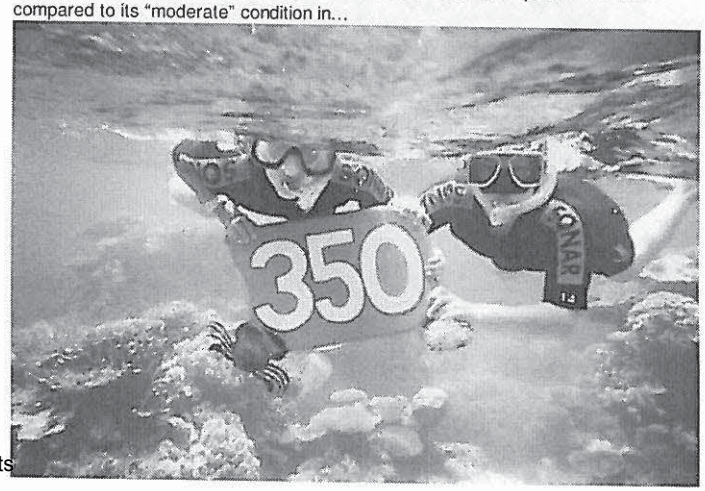
Australia's natural resources are reaching a crisis point as they struggle to support and sustain our lifestyles. But while degradation of these systems continues, research suggests the level of concern...

The poor condition of the Reef means we have to find better ways to improve water quality. The poor condition of the Reef means we have to find better ways to improve water quality. Flickr/FarbenfroheWunderwelt

Great Barrier Reef report in: time to make polluters pay

By Colin Hunt

Last week, the Australian and Queensland governments released a reef report card which found the overall condition of the reef in 2010-2011 was "poor". This was compared to its "moderate" condition in...



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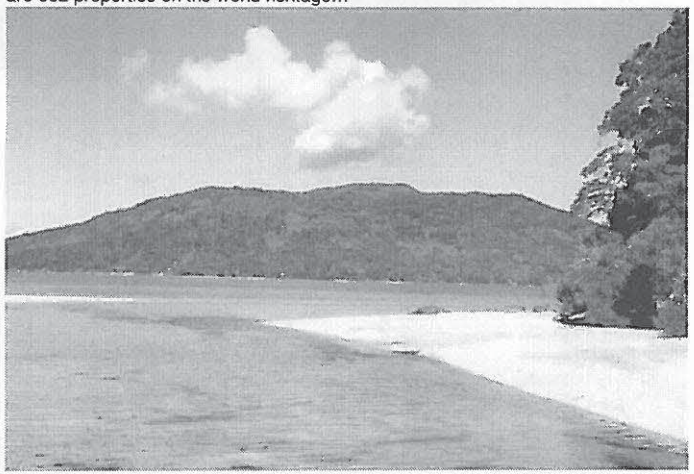
World Heritage won't mean anything if nothing's done about climate change. World Heritage won't mean anything if nothing's done about climate change. Flickr/350.org

A reprieve, but the Great Barrier Reef remains on death row

By Tim Stephens, *University of Sydney*

The Great Barrier Reef may have been spared the indignity of being listed as a World Heritage Area "in danger" this week, but the Reef's woes are just beginning. There are 962 properties on the world heritage...

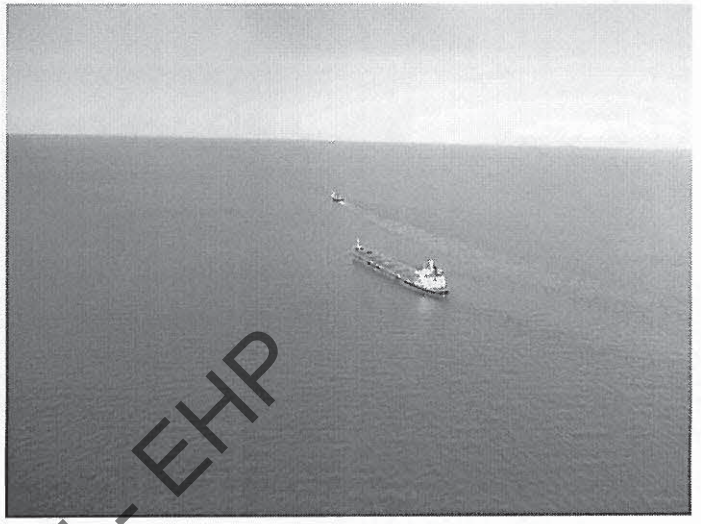


Better land management and reforestation will protect the coral reefs of Madagascar from the damage caused by sedimentation. Better land management and reforestation will protect the coral reefs of Madagascar from the damage caused by sedimentation. Flickr/Frontierofficial

Manage the land to protect the reefs

By Joseph Maina and Jens Zinke, *University of Western Australia*

The world's coral reefs are both beautiful and rich in biodiversity, supporting a number of marine species. However the negative effects of climate change and human activity have begun to take their toll...

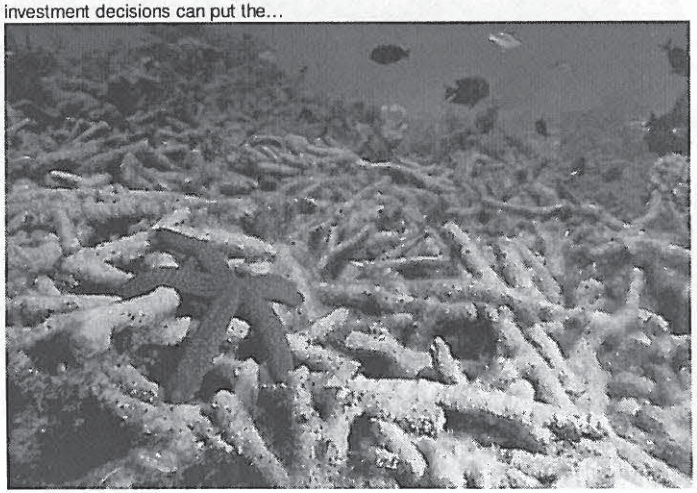


Are there viable investment alternatives to funding coal and energy projects in the Great Barrier Reef region? Are there viable investment alternatives to funding coal and energy projects in the Great Barrier Reef region? AAP

Can banks make a profit by investing in the Great Barrier Reef?

By Melissa Bos, *James Cook University* and Bob Pressey, *James Cook University*

Earlier this month, Australia's Big Four banks copped a serve over their support of the coal and gas extraction industries, focusing attention on the ways large banks' investment decisions can put the...



Will the Great Barrier Reef be declared 'In Danger'? We'll have to wait until next year to find out. Will the Great Barrier Reef be declared 'In Danger'? We'll have to wait until next year to find out. AAP Image/Catlin Seaview Survey

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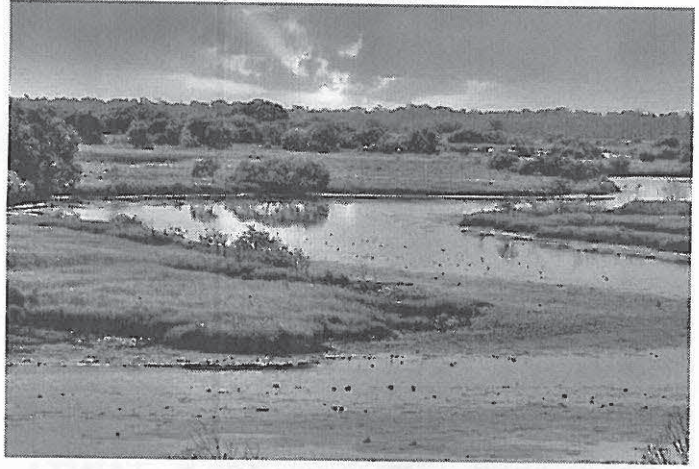
Release

UNESCO still worried about the Great Barrier Reef

By Colin Hunt

UNESCO, the body that lists world heritage areas, continues to express extreme disquiet about the state of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. But it has now postponed to February 2014 consideration...



Queensland's proposed port developments threaten the state's important northern wetlands, the reef's first line of defence. Queensland's proposed port developments threaten the state's important northern wetlands, the reef's first line of defence. Rex Boggs

Without wetlands, what will protect the Great Barrier Reef?

By Callum Roberts, *University of York*

UNESCO has released its latest report on the state of the Great Barrier Reef, and has once again raised concerns about excessive port development along the coast, and the state of water quality around...

Incidents of major agricultural run-off, like the recent Queensland floods, certainly affect Great Barrier Reef water quality, but systems are in place to reduce their effect. Incidents of major agricultural run-off, like the recent Queensland floods, certainly affect Great Barrier Reef water quality, but systems are in place to reduce their effect. AAP Image/Twitter, ISS, Chris Hadfield

Worried about Great Barrier Reef water pollution? Look at mining, not agriculture

By Jon Brodie, *James Cook University*

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is both a national marine park and a World Heritage Area. But next to the reef, a catchment of 400,000km2 is almost completely developed for agriculture, predominantly beef...

Neither the Federal nor the Queensland Governments are doing what's required to save the Great Barrier Reef. Neither the Federal nor the Queensland Governments are doing what's required to save the Great Barrier Reef. AAP Image/Greenpeace, Dean Sewell

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Grief of Great Barrier Reef: UNESCO should declare heritage site in danger

By Colin Hunt

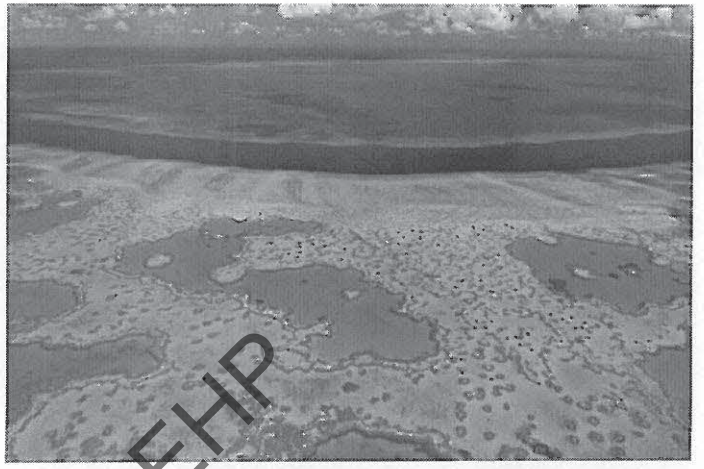
The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is clearly in danger. But will UNESCO bite the bullet and officially declare it so? UNESCO acknowledges that the property is iconic. It is the world's largest...

UNESCO's warning has done little to turn Australia's coal development around. UNESCO's warning has done little to turn Australia's coal development around. Peter Asquith

Australia coy in report on heritage status of Great Barrier Reef

By Chris McGrath

Australia has delivered an updated report on the state of conservation in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) that tip-toes around the politically charged issue of constraining major port expansions on the Queensland...



Do you value this? The Energy White Paper doesn't. Do you value this? The Energy White Paper doesn't. Green MPs

Energy White Paper plans to burn, burn, burn it all

By Chris McGrath

Burn it all. That is the plan in Australia's new Energy White Paper. Released yesterday by Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson, it talks about responding to climate change while planning the...

The Queensland government has weakened environmental regulations to get more development along the coast. The Queensland government has weakened environmental regulations to get more development along the coast. John Harvey

Planning changes to accelerate Queensland coast development

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Release

By Colin Hunt

The Newman-led Liberal-National Party (LNP) government in Queensland is aiming to boost economic growth by focusing on development in four areas; agriculture, tourism, mining and residential/commercial/industrial...

Killing starfish one by one is no long-term solution. Killing starfish one by one is no long-term solution. Paul Cizek

Crown of Thorns is a symptom of reef decline: let's address the cause

By Terry Hughes, *James Cook University*

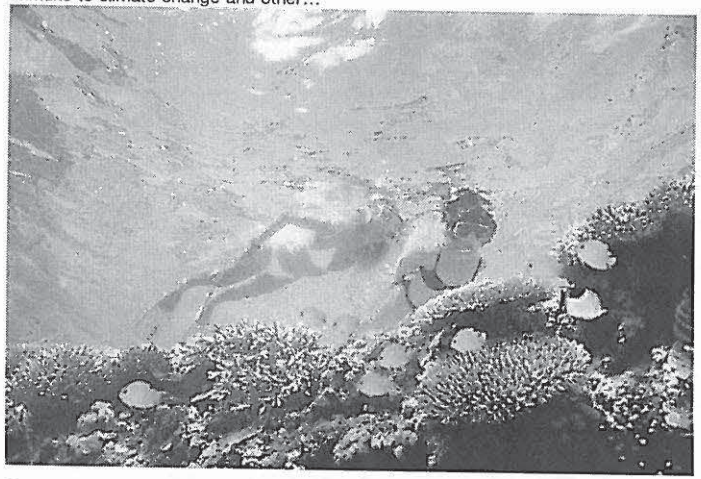
A recent report on coral loss from the Great Barrier Reef has pointed the finger at cyclones and Crown of Thorns starfish. The real culprit is human activity, and until we reduce port activity and pollution...

The Great Barrier Reef may be huge and long-lived, but without intervention it's in serious trouble. The Great Barrier Reef may be huge and long-lived, but without intervention it's in serious trouble. Landfeldt/Flickr

The decay of the Great Barrier Reef calls for a reckoning

By John Bruno, *University of North Carolina*

There is a myth about Australia's Great Barrier Reef, that goes like this: because it is so big, biodiverse, so well-managed and generally bloody awesome, the GBR is immune to climate change and other...



Quarries and quandaries: Australia's natural splendour is a major source of income, yet it sits uncomfortably with mining's spread. Quarries and quandaries: Australia's natural splendour is a major source of income, yet it sits uncomfortably with mining's spread. AAP/Fantasea Adventure Cruising

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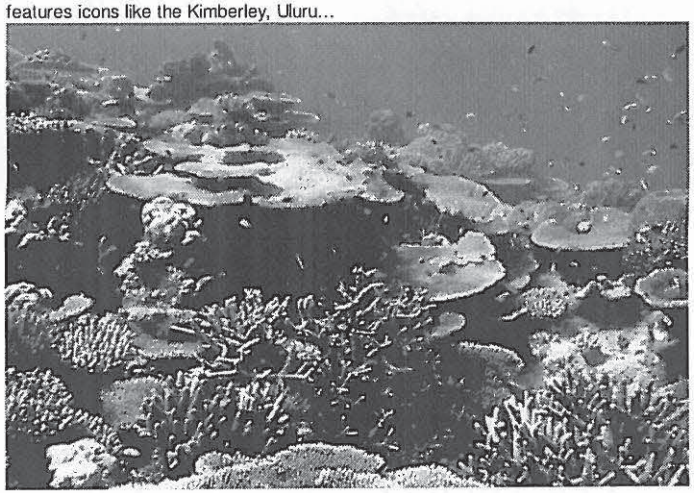
Mining and the environment: the future of Australia's brand

By Vanessa Adams, *Charles Darwin University*

Australia has built a strong global brand based on its iconic natural beauty. For example, the new Australia Tourism campaign, "There's nothing like Australia", features icons like the Kimberley, Uluru...



Sanctuary: marine parks can create new ways to prevent illegal fishing. Sanctuary: marine parks can create new ways to prevent illegal fishing. Mia Hoogenboom, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University

Marine parks could help cut down on illegal fishing

By Vanessa Adams, *Charles Darwin University* and Natalie Ban, *James Cook University*

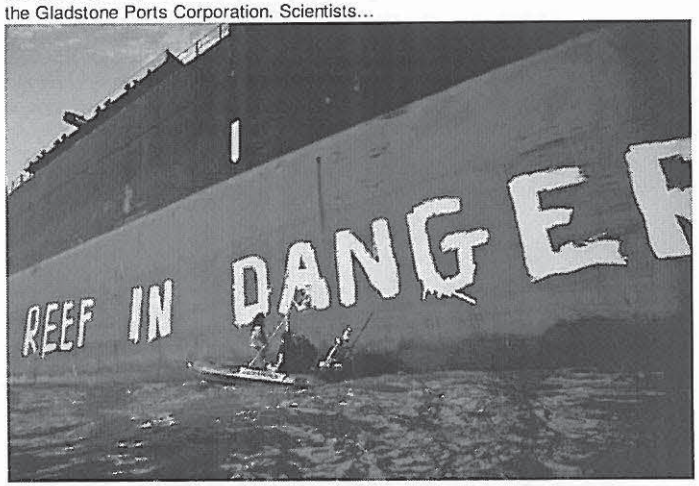
Environment Minister Tony Burke announced the final proposed Commonwealth marine protected area (MPA) network last month. The network would be the largest in the world, covering more than a third of Commonwealth...

A bund wall surrounds the Fishermans Landing Wharf expansion in Gladstone. A bund wall surrounds the Fishermans Landing Wharf expansion in Gladstone. AAP/Dave Hunt

UNESCO throws down gauntlet on Great Barrier Reef ports

By Colin Hunt

The sealing of a leak of dredge spoil (harbour-bottom scooped up and dumped in a landfill area) in a bund wall in Gladstone harbour was announced on 25th of June by the Gladstone Ports Corporation. Scientists...



The announcement of a marine park network is unlikely to calm the worries of Great Barrier Reef conservation groups. The announcement of a marine park network is unlikely to calm the worries of Great Barrier Reef conservation groups. AAP/Greenpeace

New marine reserves won't address UNESCO's Reef concerns

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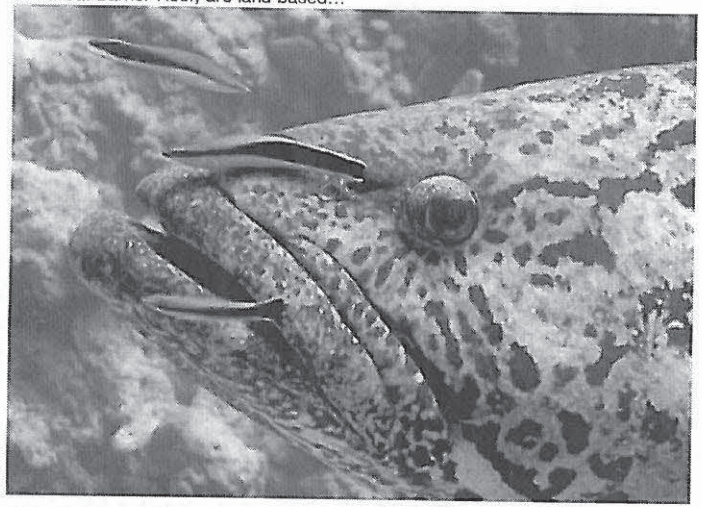
By Terry Hughes, *James Cook University*

Today's announcement of a network of marine parks for Australia is a big step forward in marine conservation. However, major threats to one iconic marine area, the Great Barrier Reef, are land-based...



Networks of nature: a potato cod with striped cleaner wrasse at Osprey Reef, an area in the expanded marine reservations announced today. Networks of nature: a potato cod with striped cleaner wrasse at Osprey Reef, an area in the expanded marine reservations announced today. Flickr/richard ling

Big splash: welcome back to top-shelf marine conservation

By Geoffrey Wescott, *Deakin University*

Today's announcement of a national network of marine parks is really a memorable day for Australian nature conservation. The political rhetoric and self-congratulation associated with major events is often...

Minister Tony Burke is slowing down coal development in Queensland, but there's more to it than saving turtles. Minister Tony Burke is slowing down coal development in Queensland, but there's more to it than saving turtles. Landfeldt/Flickr

Commonwealth and Queensland face off over coal and Great Barrier Reef

By Colin Hunt

The halt in the Alpha Coal Project approval process shows the Commonwealth is taking very seriously UNESCO's recent report threatening downgrading the status of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area...

Can a booming coal industry and a Heritage-Listed reef co-exist? Can a booming coal industry and a Heritage-Listed reef co-exist? AAP/Dave Hunt

The Great Barrier Reef at

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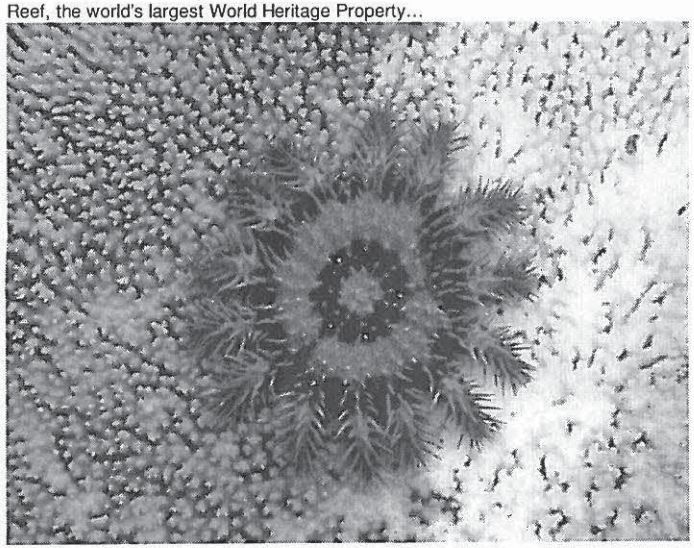
a crossroads

By Tim Stephens, *University of Sydney*

Last Friday the World Heritage Centre and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a report on the state of the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest World Heritage Property...



Another wave is coming: the coral-killing crown of thorns starfish. Another wave is coming: the coral-killing crown of thorns starfish. Flickr/<SLIM>

Great Barrier Reef dying beneath its crown of thorns

By Jon Brodie, *James Cook University*

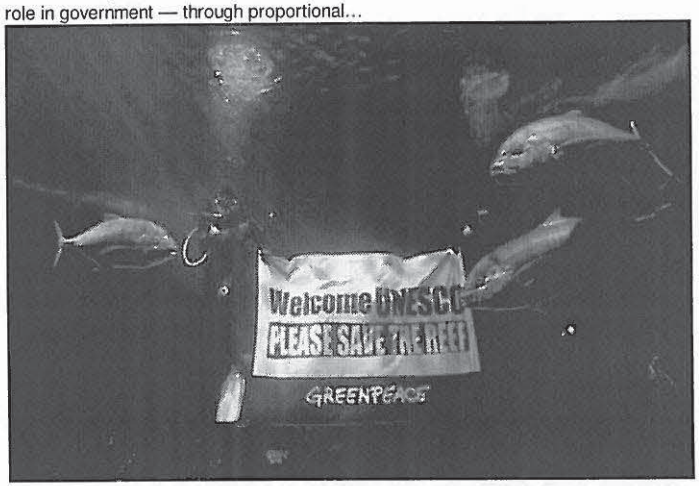
The Great Barrier Reef is under attack from a range of enemies including climate change effects (coral bleaching, increased severe storms, and ocean acidification), pollutant discharge from the land, coastal...

How Queenslanders vote may affect parts of the Great Barrier Reef such as Heron Island. How Queenslanders vote may affect parts of the Great Barrier Reef such as Heron Island. AAP/Heron Island

Coal seam gas, the Great Barrier Reef and the Queensland election – an analysis of party policy

By Colin Hunt

Queensland is different from other states in that it only has a lower house. In other states minor parties achieve representation in upper houses — and therefore have a role in government — through proportional...



UNESCO is reviewing whether more needs to be done to preserve the reef's heritage listing. UNESCO is reviewing whether more needs to be done to preserve the reef's heritage listing. AAP

Is the Great Barrier Reef listing? The

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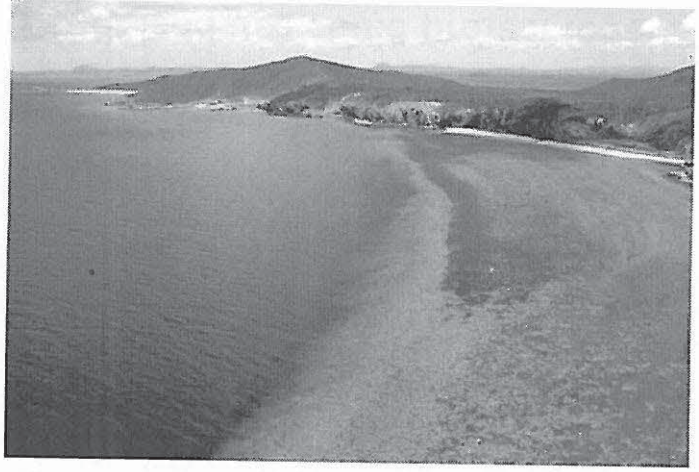
UN asks if we're still heritage-worthy

By Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

Obtaining a World Heritage listing for a national asset is a source of great pride for any country. The Taj Mahal (1983), Borobudur (1991) and Uluru (2007) are examples where countries have obtained the...



Mass bleaching at the Keppel Islands in 2006. Our greatest natural asset is under threat, but you wouldn't know it from reading Andrew Bolt. Mass bleaching at the Keppel Islands in 2006. Our greatest natural asset is under threat, but you wouldn't know it from reading Andrew Bolt. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

Drowning out the truth about the Great Barrier Reef

By Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

MEDIA & DEMOCRACY - Ove Hoegh-Guldberg dives into the media's coverage of an Australian icon's future. One of the most straightforward climate change storylines is the link between global warming and...

Research and News (7)

Calls for climate action as Great Barrier Reef suffers major coral loss

By Charis Palmer, *The Conversation*

The Great Barrier Reef has lost half its coral cover in the last 27 years, and it could halve again by 2022 say researchers...

Skin cancer found in Great Barrier Reef fish

By Fron Jackson-Webb, *The Conversation*

Scientists have identified skin cancer in the Great Barrier Reef's wild fish populations which is almost identical to melanomas...

Millions of unknown species likely in danger of extinction

By Justin Norrie, *The Conversation*

The planet is home to anywhere between two million and 50 million undiscovered species, many of which are at threat from...

UNESCO's Great Barrier Reef report: experts respond

By Justin Norrie, *The Conversation*

A damning UNESCO report has criticised management of the Great Barrier Reef and warned that the area could be downgraded...

Panoramic images of Great Barrier Reef will take millions on virtual dives

By Justin Norrie, *The Conversation*

Internet surfers will soon be able to go below the surface to immerse themselves in the spectacular coral and marine life...

Coral rehab finding offers hope for Great Barrier Reef

By Sunanda Creagh, *The Conversation*

Coral ecosystems cope much better than was first thought when the reef habitat is fragmented, a new study has found, meaning...

Sunscreen pill may be five years away but Cancer Council urges caution

By Sunanda Creagh, *The Conversation*

Sun-lovers may one day be able to pop a 'sunscreen pill' that uses a compound found in coral to protect skin from harmful...

Research Briefs (11)

Flood damage to reef goes down to the core

University of Western Australia

More information has been uncovered to show how extreme weather events - such as the 2011 Queensland floods - impact the...

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First deepwater fossil study of Great Barrier Reef

University of Sydney

Analyses of the deepwater, or mesophotic, reefs of the Great Barrier Reef has shown how the reef responds to global sea level...

Gone to its head: slugs stab sexual partners

Monash University

A new species of sea slug has been found to inject its sexual partners with secretions that alter their behaviour. The sea...

Great Barrier Reef: finally on the (digital) map

University of Queensland; James Cook University

The first complete, high resolution digital map of the Great Barrier Reef has been produced by a group of researchers from...

Spraying techniques stem runoff into Great Barrier Reef

CSIRO

New weed control techniques developed for sugarcane crops in Queensland could reduce herbicide runoffs into the Great Barrier...

Fishing puts sea cucumbers at risk

University of Sydney

Overfishing of sea cucumbers in the Great Barrier Reef has placed some species at the risk of extinction, a new study has...

Reef fish threatened by climate change waters

Australian National University

Climate change could cause local extinctions of chocolate dipped damselfish that are highly specialised to the conditions...

Better land use could protect the Great Barrier Reef

University of Western Australia

Better land use could prevent further damage to the world's coral reefs, according to a recent study. The findings have important...

Great Barrier Reef's dugongs under threat

James Cook University

Recent aerial surveys of the southern Great Barrier Reef have revealed a dramatic decline in the region's dugong population...

Unprecedented Barrier Reef survey announced

University of Queensland

The University of Queensland has announced that it will team with Google to undertake a pioneering study of the composition...

Sea cucumbers may save coral reefs

University of Sydney

Tropical sea cucumbers could protect coral reefs from further degradation due to climate change, according to researchers...

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Queensland Government

reef FACTS

Media room

Articles

- The Conversation... Let's dump Great Barrier Reef dredging myths (http://theconversation.com/lets-dump-great-barrier-reef-dredging-myths-authority-chief-22991)
- The battle over Abbot Point risks losing the Great Barrier Reef war (http://theconversation.com/the-battle-over-abbot-point-risks-losing-the-great-barrier-reef-war-24207)

Audio

- Dr Alison Jones, researcher and coral oncologist, CQ University talks about the information on the Reef Facts website (MP3 audio file, 1.2M) (http://www.reeffacts.qld.gov.au/media-room/audio/dr-alison-jones.mp3).

Videos

Caring and Nurturing for the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef - Nature's Wonderland: there's so much to see and do.

eReefs: Providing water quality information for the Great Barrier Reef.

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† Requires an appropriate media player

Last updated 7 March 2014

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MECS
(CTS No. 07173/14)
FINALISED
(EHP - Minister)

CTS No: 07173/14 *Currently Assigned To:* EHP - Minister *DUE:* 8/04

Concerning: information available on internet / The Conversation website / more information on Great Barrier Reef than Reef facts website / claims of selective information department publishes

Campaign: *Template:* EHP - Chief of Staff lette

Security Classification: EHP - Unrestricted *Ack Letter Template:*

Organisational Entity: EHP

CLIENTS (1)

Role	Name	Client Type	Organisation/Company	Post code	Locality	Primary
Original Correspondent	sch4p4(6) Personal information	PUB - Member of the Public		4580		Yes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER DETAILS

Reply to Name: *Position:*

Reply To Org:

Reply to Address:

Regarding: the information available regarding the Great Barrier Reef

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

Business Area: EHP - EPP DDG *Business Unit:* EPP - EWQ

Action Type: Min - Request for Reply

Redraft Reason:

Executive Contact: Corro EHP EPP DDG *Agency Author:* DARCY Rachel

INVOLVEMENT DETAILS

COMMENTS

DATES

Created: 25/03/14 *Dated:* 23/03/14

Attachments
View| Finalising signed reply to sch4p4(6) Personal information
View| Finalising Draft Reply
View| Finalising 07173/14 - REQUEST - Incoming Letter
View| Finalising Link 1 - The Conversation website link referred
View| Finalising Link 2 - Reef Facts website link referred to in

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No related correspondence

My Recently Opened Items
07173/14 - information available on internet / The**09980/14** - Comment sch4p4(6) Personal information sch4p4(6) Personal information reef facts ad on**11598/14** - REEF FACTS CAMPAIGN**11981/14** - Great Barrier Reef / Ben and Jerry's campaign**10061/14** - Reef Facts website / campaign is authorised /

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

frmFinalisedItemSuper - 4.0.1516.0

Received:	24/03/14		
Draft Due to EHP - Minister:	08/04/14	*Draft Received by EHP - Minister:*	04/04/14
		Date Sent for Signoff:	10/04/14
Due Signatory:		*Sent for Redraft:*	
Signed:		*Finalised:*	14/04/14
YOUR DUE DATE:	08/04/14	*EC Officer Allocated:*	25/03/14

GENERAL DETAILS

External Reference No:		*Thesaurus No:*	
Classification:	Seeking Information	*Locality:*	General

SIGNATORIES

Select the next Signatory:		*Due Date:*	
Date Submitted:		*Date Received:*	16/04/14

Current Signatories

Signatory	*Due Date*	*Date Completed*	*Submitted To*	*Received From*
EHP - Minister		16/04/14	10/04/14	16/04/14

Default Signatories

Signatory	*Response Due*

INFORMATION OFFICERS

Pending Information Officers

For Information	*Details*

COMMENTS LIST

Date Added	*Added By*	*COMMENT HISTORY*
16/04/14 13:54	LANDS\TaylorE	Finalised by TAYLOR Erin (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) signed reply to sch4p4(6) Personal information dated 14/4/14 emailed PM today
15/04/14 12:11	LANDS\bakerla	Reply signed by CoS dated 14/04/14, fwd to MECU for final processing.
10/04/14 10:34	LANDS\bakerla	Receipt acknowledged in SignOff by BAKER-LOWE Andrew (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) Item received in MO, with CoS
10/04/14 08:23	LANDS\TaylorE	Item was submitted for SignOff to EHP - Minister submitted for CoS signature AM today
08/04/14 15:30	LANDS\KERRIDGE_AT	EHP - Minister issued clearance for Item
04/04/14 16:11	LANDS\TaylorE	with MECU for processing

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
04/04/14 16:01	LANDS\fiedleh	Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) (EC)Approved Workflow Item. Approved by DDG EPP. Thanks, Harry.
03/04/14 11:04	LANDS\fiedleh	Printed for DDG EPP approval.
03/04/14 09:50	LANDS\reaj	Approval applied for by Rea Jessica (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP EWQ) to Corro EHP EPP DDG. Hi Harry, for progression please. Sorry for the delay (I missed this one). Thanks, Jess
31/03/14 16:08	LANDS\AndersenCM	Approval applied for by Andersen Claire (who was the CAP) to Corro EHP EPP EWQ. Approved with changes. To DDG for approval. Claire
31/03/14 15:20	LANDS\darcyr	Approval applied for by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) to Andersen Claire. Hi Claire, Reply letter using the standard reef response prepared, with additional couple of sentences re the conversation articles referenced. Ready for your approval, Rachel
26/03/14 16:15	LANDS\DarcyR	Responsibility Accepted by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister.
26/03/14 16:01	LANDS\AndersenCM	Allocated to DARCY Rachel by Andersen Claire (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister. Rach - can you please put a response together based on the standard reef response. I just emailed it to you. Claire
26/03/14 16:00	LANDS\AndersenCM	Responsibility UnAccepted by Andersen Claire (who was the CAP).
25/03/14 15:42	LANDS\AndersenCM	Responsibility Accepted by Andersen Claire (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister.
25/03/14 15:39	lands\fiedleh	Allocated to Andersen Claire by Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) for Response for EHP - Minister. Hi Claire, Please prepare a reply letter for Troy Collings' signature. Your response is due to Corro EHP EPP DDG for approval by COB Tuesday 1 April 2014. Thanks, Harry.
25/03/14 15:39	lands\fiedleh	Workflow was CCd to ROBINSON Scott;Corro EHP EPP EWQ for Information by Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
25/03/14 15:27	LANDS\UferC	Allocated to Corro EHP EPP DDG by Ufer Cathy (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) for Response for EHP - Minister. Prepare reply for Troy Collings - due to MECU by 8/04/14
25/03/14 10:12	LANDS\bakerla	Item created by Baker-Lowe Andrew

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

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Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

Ref CTS 05625/14

28 MAR 2014

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GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2014 concerning the Reef Facts website information. You have also raised concerns over Abbot Point and the impact of its expansion on coral reefs, marine creatures and habitat. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

There has been a lot of media attention on port development adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef recently and it is important that these activities are put into perspective. Recent scientific evidence from the Australian Institute of Marine Science shows coral cover has halved since 1985 and that the main causes have been cyclones and storm damage (48%), Crown of Thorns starfish (42%) and coral bleaching (10%).

The 2013 scientific consensus statement on water quality, prepared by 40 leading scientists, indicates that the greatest water quality risks to the Great Barrier Reef are from nitrogen discharge, linked to Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks and fine sediment discharge, which reduces the light available to seagrass and inshore reefs. The main source of excess nutrients and fine sediments is runoff from agricultural areas. Relative to agriculture, other sources of pollutants such as urban and ports development are minor.

While there is little that can be done to prevent storms, cyclones and bleaching events, the Queensland Government can, and is, working to improve catchment run-off. The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, a joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian Governments, has been addressing this issue since 2003 and has demonstrated that positive change can be achieved. For example, the most recent reef report card showed that in the years 2009–2011, improved land management practices reduced sediment loads entering the reef by an estimated 6%. There was also a 13% reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen, the key pollutant thought to trigger Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks. While these numbers may sound small, this is a massive achievement after a long history of continuing declines in water quality. This report card confirms that management change and water quality improvements are on a positive trajectory. If you would like to read more about this initiative and the progress being made by farmers and graziers, you can do so online at <www.reefplan.qld.gov.au>.

Ports, shipping, tourism and fishing were all major activities in the Great Barrier Reef region well before it was listed as a World Heritage site in 1981, and the scientific evidence shows that their impact on the reef ecosystem has been quite small. For example, stringent monitoring undertaken during the last dredging campaign at Hay Point (larger than what is proposed for Abbot Point), showed that there was no significant impact, and the sediment plume was less than what was predicted through modelling. While there has been significant growth in recent years, it is important to remember that there are only four major industrial ports on a stretch of coastline more than 2300km long, equal in length to the entire west coast of the USA from the Canadian to the Mexican borders.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Under the Queensland Ports Strategy, port development in the Great Barrier Reef will be restricted to the key long-established ports—Townsville, Abbot Point, Hay Point/Mackay and Gladstone – for at least the next 10 years. This is consistent with the request by the World Heritage Committee.

The Port of Abbot Point has been operating as a coal export terminal since 1984 with no significant impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Following its election in 2012, the Newman Government took immediate action to reject massive development plans at Abbot Point under consideration by the previous government. This decision reduced the need for dredging within the port from 38 million cubic metres to the three million cubic metres recently approved by the Australian Government.

Dredging work and sediment disposal is subject to strict conditions to prevent impacts. For example, dredging will only be permitted to take place between 1 March and 30 June each year to protect water quality during critical times for seagrass growth and coral spawning. The four square kilometre area where the dredge material is to be disposed, does not contain any hard coral or seagrass and is 39–44 metres deep. It is located 40km away from the nearest offshore reef. On top of this, the port operator is required to fund initiatives to reduce river-borne loads equivalent to 150% of the fine sediment portion of the dredged material.

The recent approval of the Abbot Point expansion by the Australian Government is the product of Australia's most comprehensive assessment process of this kind and has produced some of the strictest environmental conditions in Australia's history. This is right and proper given that we are protecting Australia's most important natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the best managed coral reef ecosystems in the world. The new Reef Facts website outlines what the Queensland Government is doing to keep it that way and I encourage you to visit this site at <www.reeffacts.qld.gov.au>. It is possible to have development, economic growth and jobs, and protect this wonderful environmental asset at the same time.

The Minister hopes this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr John Lane, Director, Environmental Planning of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on (07) 3330 5864.

Yours sincerely

sch4-Signature

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff

RTIDL RELEASE-EHP

Erin Phillips

From: 'Andrew Powell website ' <info@andrewpowell.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 March 2014 11:38 AM
To: Glass House
Subject: andrewpowell.com.au - get in touch

Name:
Email: sch4p4(6) Personal information
Phone:
Suburb:
Issues: Environment,
Message: The website reef Facts is in fact incorrect and misleading/

The coral reefs around Hayman and Hamilton island are tourist attractions....The mud drift will travel up to 80kms and the Whitsundays are less than 50kms.

You didn\'t mention that the area around Abbott point is a home to dwindling dugongs,fish and turtle nesting grounds adjacent to this proposed expansion.
Sea grasses being covered will cause stress and disease as marine creatures are forced from their homes..

Your website might help you believe that you are doing the right thing but the rest of Australia and the world Does not Approve..

The Australian Constitution insists you must do the \"Will of the People\" or risk expulsion from Government ..Your choice!!!

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

MECS
(CTS No. 05625/14)
FINALISED
(EHP - MINISTER)

CTS No: 05625/14 *Currently Assigned To:* EHP - Minister *DUE:* 28/8/03

Concerning: Reef Facts website incorrect and misleading / Abbot Point / home to dugongs, fish and turtles / ** BC COPY TO GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS ELECTORATE OFFICE**

Campaign: *Template:* EHP - Chief of Staff lette

Security Classification: EHP - Unrestricted *Ack Letter Template:*

Organisational Entity: EHP

Attachments
View| Finalised signed reply
View| Finalised Draft Reply
View| Finalised 05625/14 - REQUEST - Incoming Letter

Related Correspondence
No related correspondence

My Recently Opened Items
05625/14 - Reef Facts website incorrect and misleading /**07173/14** - information available on internet / The**09980/14** - Comment sch4p4(6) Personal information Your reef facts ad on**11598/14** - REEF FACTS CAMPAIGN**11981/14** - Great Barrier Reef / Ben and Jerry's campaign**10061/14** - Reef Facts website / campaign is authorised /

CLIENTS (2)

Role	Name	Client Type	Organisation/Company	Post code	Locality	Primary
Original Correspondent	Mr/Ms Unknown Name	PUB - Member of the Public				Yes
Original Correspondent	The Honourable Andrew Powell MP	MP - Member of Parliament	Member for Glass House	4552		No

sch4p4(6) Personal information

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER DETAILS

Reply to Name: *Position:*

Reply To Org:

Reply to Address:

Regarding: the Reef Facts website information

DEPARTMENTAL DETAILS

Business Area: EHP - EPP DDG *Business Unit:* EPP - EWQ

Action Type: Min - Request for Reply

Redraft Reason:

Executive Contact: Corro EHP EPP DDG *Agency Author:* DARCY Rachel

INVOLVEMENT DETAILS

COMMENTS

DATES

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

frmFinalisedItemSuper - 4.0.1516.0

Created:	10/03/14	*Dated:*	04/03/14
Received:	04/03/14		
Draft Due to EHP - Minister:	28/03/14	*Draft Received by EHP - Minister:*	26/03/14
		Date Sent for Signoff:	27/03/14
Due Signatory:		*Sent for Redraft:*	
Signed:		*Finalised:*	28/03/14
YOUR DUE DATE:	28/03/14	*EC Officer Allocated:*	10/03/14

GENERAL DETAILS

External Reference No:		*Thesaurus No:*	
Classification:	Seeking Information	*Locality:*	General

SIGNATORIES

Select the next Signatory:		*Due Date:*	
Date Submitted:		*Date Received:*	28/03/14

Current Signatories

Signatory	*Due Date*	*Date Completed*	*Submitted To*	*Received From*
EHP - Minister	28/03/14	27/03/14	28/03/14	

Default Signatories

Signatory	*Response Due*

INFORMATION OFFICERS

Pending Information Officers

For Information	*Details*

COMMENTS LIST

Date Added	*Added By*	*COMMENT HISTORY*
31/03/14 09:08	LANDS\TaylorE	2 attempts to send to this email address have failed with the address being entered 'unable to be found'.
28/03/14 15:14	LANDS\TaylorE	Finalised by Taylor Erin (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) signed reply dated 28/3/14 emailed PM today
28/03/14 14:12	LANDS\bakerla	Reply signed by CoS dated 28/03/14, fwd to MECU for final processing.
27/03/14 14:19	LANDS\bakerla	Receipt acknowledged in SignOff by Baker-Lowe Andrew (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) Item received in MO, with CoS
27/03/14 12:50	LANDS\TaylorE	Item was submitted for SignOff to EHP - Minister submitted for CoS signature PM today

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Release

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
26/03/14 17:22	LANDS\UferC	With MECU for processing
26/03/14 16:47	lands\fiedleh	Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) (EC)Approved Workflow Item. Approved by DDG EPP. Thanks, Harry.
25/03/14 09:32	LANDS\TaylorE	Workflow was CCd to Corro EHP EPP DDG for Information by Taylor Erin (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
25/03/14 09:31	LANDS\TaylorE	Allocation Due Date for EHP - Minister changed from 24/03/14 to 28/03/14. All relevant due dates automatically changed by 4 working days DLO granted EoT until 28/3/14
25/03/14 09:24	LANDS\shawg	Hi Erin - Please provide an extension of time to 28/3/14. Thanks Gary
25/03/14 09:24	LANDS\shawg	Workflow was CCd to Taylor Erin for Information by Shaw Gary (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
25/03/14 08:58	LANDS\TaylorE	Good morning Gary. Please see request for EoT below and advise. Thank you
25/03/14 08:58	LANDS\TaylorE	Workflow was CCd to DLO EHP for Information by Taylor Erin (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
25/03/14 08:57	LANDS\TaylorE	MECU correcting workflow.
25/03/14 08:56	LANDS\TaylorE	with MECU for processing
25/03/14 08:49	lands\fiedleh	Hi MECU. EPP requests an EoT on this MECS item. The GBR and Abbot Point standard response letters are still being finalised, so as such, an extension is requested to allow time for this to take place. Thanks, Harry.
25/03/14 08:49	lands\fiedleh	Workflow was CCd to Corro EHP Minister for Information by Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
19/03/14 12:43	lands\fiedleh	Printed for DDG EPP approval.
19/03/14 08:59	LANDS\AndersenCM	Minor amendments made to letter to bring it in line with DPC response provided by Peter Hutchison on 19/3/14. DPC approved content.
18/03/14 16:08	LANDS\AndersenCM	Approval applied for by Andersen Claire (who was the CAP) to Corro EHP EPP DDG. Approved. To DDG for approval. Note that copy has been sent to DPC for consistency checking. I will include a note in MECs when approved. claire
18/03/14 15:52	LANDS\DarcyR	Approval applied for by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) to Andersen Claire. Hi Claire, reply letter prepared using the standard letter content that has been set to DPC for their support. Only minor changes made to adjust the content to the incoming letter/email. Note, that Peter H has requested we send this to him prior to final approval, Rachel
12/03/14 09:39	LANDS\DarcyR	Responsibility Accepted by D'ARCY Rachel (who was the CAP) for Response for EHP - Minister.
12/03/14 09:30	LANDS\AndersenCM	Allocated to DARCY Rachel by Andersen Claire (who was acting for: Robinson Scott) for Response for EHP - Minister. Hi Rachel, can you please draft a response. Please liaise with Sally Beecham re the standard reef response they have put together which includes Abbot Point and add to it in relation to the reef facts information. Claire
12/03/14 09:26	LANDS\reaj	Hi Claire, please see note from Reef below. Can you please allocate this item to your team? A response is due to the Directorate by 19 March 2014. Thanks, Jess
12/03/14 09:26	LANDS\reaj	Workflow was CCd to Andersen Claire for Information by Rea Jessica (who was acting for: Robinson Scott) with the following instructions: .
11/03/14 10:33	lands\duttons	Request re-allocation by O'Mara Sharron (who was acting for: BRAMWELL Peter) to Robinson Scott.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Date Added	Added By	COMMENT HISTORY
		Hi Jess, Would you please reallocate this item to Claire Andersen's area. Thanks Sharron
11/03/14 09:44	lands\duttons	Allocated to BRAMWELL Peter by O'Mara Sharron (who was acting for: Robinson Scott) for Response for EHP - Minister. Hi Peter, Please prepare a response by COB 18th March 2014 for Director, Reef Water Quality approval. Regards Sharron
10/03/14 16:51	lands\fiedleh	Allocated to Robinson Scott by Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) for Response for EHP - Minister. Hi Scott, Please prepare a reply for Troy Collings' signature. Your response is due to Corro EHP EPP DDG for approval by COB 19 March 2014. Thanks, Harry.
10/03/14 16:51	lands\fiedleh	Workflow was CCd to OMara Sharron; Corro EHP EPP EWQ; Lane John;Andersen Claire for Information by Fiedler Harry (who was acting for: Corro EHP EPP DDG) with the following instructions: .
10/03/14 14:30	LANDS\UferC	Allocated to Corro EHP EPP DDG by Ufer Cathy (who was acting for: EHP - Minister) for Response for EHP - Minister. Prepare reply for Troy Collings - due to MECU by 24/03/14
10/03/14 09:35	LANDS\bakerla	Item created by Baker-Lowe Andrew

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