

MURRAY Michael

From: Ormsby Natalie
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2013 10:26 AM
To: DLO NPRSR
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Okie doak thanks for the update Chloe!

From: DLO NPRSR
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2013 9:22 AM
To: Ormsby Natalie
Cc: Corro NPRSR QPWS DDG; Corro NPRSR QPWS East; DLO NPRSR
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Hi Nat

I spoke with Paula and Beth from QPWS East this morning as a MECS item was also sent for this request.

Advice from the Region is to not progress with this email and to wait for the MECS item response as it is more accurate.

The MECS item will be progressed via the normal channels in due course (Due to ODG 3pm Monday 1 Oct 13).

Thanks

Chloe Cavanagh

Department Liaison Officer, Office of the Director-General
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

(07) 3338 9309

chloe.cavanagh@nprsr.qld.gov.au

Level 7 | 111 George Street | Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15187 | City East | Queensland 4002

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Ormsby Natalie
Sent: Thursday, 26 September 2013 5:11 PM
To: DLO NPRSR
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Hi Michael

Dot points below, as requested by Lisa, on the above matter.

Cheers
Nat

From: Head Damien
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 5:17 PM
To: Cambourn Neil
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Neil some dots between myself and Jesse to forward back to Lisa

- Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd operates the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery in Yabulu, Townsville, North Queensland. The company has a joint Commonwealth/State marine parks permit issued by GBRMPA and QPWS for their historic discharge pipeline which extends from the refinery about 1km into Halifax Bay, between Saunders Beach and Bushland Beach. The pipeline is in waters that are overlapping Commonwealth and State marine parks
- The permit is exclusively for the presence of the infrastructure and does not allow the refinery to discharge anything through this pipe without further permission. This permit expired on 30 June 2013. The assessment of the application to renew their permit is currently being handled through the normal joint permitting arrangement between GBRMPA and QPWS. However acknowledging this is primarily a Commonwealth Marine Park issue as opposed to State (coastal) marine park, GBRMPA are taking the lead with the assessment. Permission has never been granted for discharge from the pipeline into the marine parks. An application to discharge from the pipeline have been refused in 2009 and 2011 by GBRMPA and QPWS.
- Therefore the pipelines purpose has solely been to provide for 'emergency discharge'.
- QPWS has supported GBRMPA's position (for the past 4 years) that it is not acceptable for Qld Nickel to discharge into the Marine Parks unless it is an emergency (1 in 50 year storm event) in which case they do not need permission under the Zoning Plans. Neither of the flooding events in 2009 and 2011 that resulted in discharge were considered by GBRMPA to be emergency events (i.e. not 1 in 50 year events for that area).
- The refinery also has several settling ponds which form the tailings storage facility. In the past, heavy wet seasons have sometimes resulted in overflows from the tailings storage facility or preemptive discharges through the ocean pipeline to reduce pond levels. This occurred in 2009 (associated with Cyclone Hamish) and 2011 (associated with Cyclone Yasi).
- There is a strong view that these events did not constitute the need for emergency discharge rather highlight the absence of appropriate actions to reduce the levels in the settling ponds for an extend period.
- This matter is contentious due to high environmental risks associated with any discharge, GBRMPA have been working with Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd and the Queensland Government (then DERM and now EHP) since 2009 to reduce the risk of unpermitted discharges or overflows from the refinery's tailings storage facility in future wet seasons.
- The EHP environmental authority for Qld Nickel acknowledges wet season discharge into the Marine Parks as an acceptable flood mitigation strategy in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of dam walls which arguably would have a greater impact on the surrounding wetlands and coastal habitat.
- The significance of the environment risks are high.
- Given the accumulation of volume in the Tailings and settlement ponds from predicted wet season rainfall combined with mine production, the pipeline which is only capable of pumping a maximum of 20ML/day, is considered not to be a prompt and effective emergency response but part of an ongoing mitigation strategy.
- **The most recent discharge from the pipeline of 516 tonnes of nitrogen represented a 14% increase in the annual load of nitrogen to the Burdekin catchment.** By way of a comparison the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the Queensland Government's ReefWise Farming initiatives have invested heavily in improving farming practices to remove similar loads of nitrogen from the Burdekin catchment (e.g. the Burdekin Water Quality Improvement Plan has a target to remove approx. 350 tonnes of nitrogen through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan's Water Quality Grants investment program over 5 years). The discharge amounts contained high enough levels of nutrients and heavy metals to more than offset all of the gains achieved by farmers in the catchment over the past 5 years at a cost of millions of dollars through the Reef Rescue program.
- The quality of waste water that has been discharged into the marine parks from the pipeline significantly exceeds ANZECC Guidelines (2000) and the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guidelines (2009) for ammonia and several metals.

Participation in reference committee

- Damien Head has been contacted regarding participating in the reference committee, however is yet to respond to the request (request received AM on 25/9/13). The expertise of NPRSR officers on this matter may not be adequate to participate in such a science focused panels. The details on the reference committees roles and largely unknown at this stage.

Damien was contacted by:

George Lukacs | Director - Environment and Sustainability
QUEENSLAND NICKEL PTY LTD
Greenvale Street, Yabulu QLD 4818
P > +61 7 4720 6422 | F > +61 7 4751 1208 | M > 49-Sch4 - Mobile phone
E > George.Lukacs@qni.com.au<<mailto:George.Lukacs@qni.com.au>>

From: Lisa Myers [<mailto:Lisa.Myers@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 3:39 PM
To: DLO NPRSR
Cc: Cambourn Neil; Head Damien
Subject: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Good afternoon

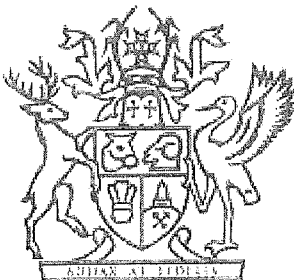
We have been approached by Queensland Nickel in relation to their MP permit application G36275. I understand GBRMPA have been going down this track for some time.

Can we please get some advice as to what NPRSR's role is in this? And whether the Dept supports the pipeline being removed?

I also understand Queensland Nickel are requesting Parks representation on a Reference Committee for the Independent Science Panel for the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery. Damien Head may have been approached.

If we could get some advice by COB 3 Oct that would be great.

Thanks



Lisa Myers
Policy Advisor | National Parks
Office of the Hon. Steve Dickson MP | Minister for National Parks, Recreation,
Sport and Racing
Phone: 07 3224 7477 | Fax: 07 3012 7725
111 George Street | Brisbane | QLD 4000
GPO Box 15187 | Brisbane | QLD 4001
Great State. Great Opportunity.

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and /or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

1

HEAD Damien

From: Low Jesse
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 4:42 PM
To: Head Damien
Cc: Cambourn Neil; Low Jesse
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application
Attachments: QN DG briefing note.doc

Damien – here's a quick response. If you want a proper briefing note, let me know but that would be next week at the earliest.

- Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd operates the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery in Yabulu, Townsville, North Queensland. The company has a joint permit from GBRMPA and the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service for an historic discharge pipeline which extends from the refinery about 1km into Halifax Bay, between Saunders Beach and Bushland Beach. The permit does not allow the refinery to discharge anything through this pipe. This permit expired on 30 June 2013. The assessment of the application to continue their permit is being handled as a normal joint permit with GBRMPA taking the lead given the issues are predominantly in the GBRMP.
- The refinery has several settling ponds which form the tailings storage facility. In the past, heavy wet seasons have sometimes resulted in overflows from the tailings storage facility or preemptive discharges through the ocean pipeline to reduce pond levels. This occurred in 2009 (associated with Cyclone Hamish) and 2011 (associated with Cyclone Yasi).
- QPWS supports GBRMPA's position (for the past 4 years) that it is not acceptable for Qld Nickel to discharge into the Marine Parks unless it is an emergency (1 in 50 year storm event) in which case they do not need permission under the Zoning Plans.
- Neither of the flooding events in 2009 and 2011 that necessitated discharge were considered by GBRMPA to be emergency events.
- GBRMPA have been working with Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd and the Queensland Government since 2009 to reduce the risk of unpermitted discharges or overflows from the refinery's tailings storage facility in future wet seasons.
- The EHP environmental authority for Qld Nickel acknowledges wet season discharge into the Marine Parks as an acceptable flood mitigation strategy in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of dam walls which arguably would have a greater impact on the surrounding wetlands and coastal habitat.
- GBRMPA did some work last year (that I can't put my finger on right now) that showed that a single discharge (2009 or 2011 discharge) contained high enough levels of certain elements and heavy metals to more than offset all of the gains achieved by farmers in the catchment over the past 5 years at a cost of millions of dollars through the Reef Rescue program.

Cheers
Jesse

Jesse Low | Team Leader | Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Tourism & Recreation Access Unit, Commercial & Visitor Services
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service | Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
William McCormack Place II / 5B Sheridan Street, Cairns | PO Box 2066, Cairns, QLD 4870
t: (07) 4222 5262 | f: (07) 4222 5060
e: jesse.low@nprsr.qld.gov.au



From: Head Damien
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 3:43 PM
To: Low Jesse
Cc: Cambourn Neil
Subject: FW: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Jesse

Will need your insight into the first question. Status etc.

From: Lisa Myers [<mailto:Lisa.Myers@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 3:39 PM
To: DLO NPRSR
Cc: Cambourn Neil; Head Damien
Subject: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Good afternoon

We have been approached by Queensland Nickel in relation to their MP permit application G36275. I understand GBRMPA have been going down this track for some time.

Can we please get some advice as to what NPRSR's role is in this? And whether the Dept supports the pipeline being removed?

I also understand Queensland Nickel are requesting Parks representation on a Reference Committee for the Independent Science Panel for the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery. Damien Head may have been approached.

If we could get some advice by COB 3 Oct that would be great.

Thanks



Lisa Myers
Policy Advisor | National Parks
Office of the Hon. Steve Dickson MP | Minister for National Parks, Recreation,
Sport and Racing
Phone: 07 3224 7477 | Fax: 07 3012 7725
111 George Street | Brisbane | QLD 4000
GPO Box 15187 | Brisbane | QLD 4001
Great State. Great Opportunity.

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and /or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

NPRSR - RTI DL RELEASE

HEAD Damien

From: Head Damien
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2013 11:21 AM
To: Low Jesse
Subject: FW: Further info request
Attachments: GBRMPA Permit Renewal_response to information request 25Oct13.pdf

fyi

73(2)Irrelevant

HEAD Damien

From: Head Damien
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2013 8:51 AM
To: Corro NPRSR QPWS East
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Dot points in MECS response are more accurate. Recommend forwarding those to Mins Office. No they do not need to be approved again by everyone. Low risk. As you can see I have since phoned Qld Nickel and have attained further information to ensure a full response on the MECS item.

From: Skutenko Paula **On Behalf Of** Corro NPRSR QPWS East
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2013 8:49 AM
To: Head Damien
Cc: Corro NPRSR QPWS East
Subject: FW: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Damien

Chloe called regarding the below dot points that were provided yesterday.

Information is quite different to that currently in the MECS item (CTS23220/13), so she is wanting to know whether or not the the MECS item is actually required or if the below covers off on everything.

Please advise.

Paula Skutenko
A/ Executive Officer | Regional Operations East
 Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
 Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
 GPO Box 2454 BRISBANE QLD 4001
 Ph: (07) 3330 5194 | Fax: (07) 3330 5277 | ext: 25194

From: DLO NPRSR
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2013 8:25 AM
To: Skutenko Paula
Cc: Corro NPRSR QPWS East
Subject: FW: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

FYI

Chloe Cavanagh
 Department Liaison Officer, Office of the Director-General
 Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

☎ (07) 3338 9309
 ✉ chloe.cavanagh@nprsr.qld.gov.au
 Level 7 | 111 George Street | Brisbane Queensland 4000
 PO Box 15187 | City East | Queensland 4002

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Ormsby Natalie
Sent: Thursday, 26 September 2013 5:11 PM

To: DLO NPRSR
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Hi Michael

Dot points below, as requested by Lisa, on the above matter.

Cheers
Nat

From: Head Damien
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 5:17 PM
To: Cambourn Neil
Subject: RE: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Neil some dots between myself and Jesse to forward back to Lisa

- Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd operates the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery in Yabulu, Townsville, North Queensland. The company has a joint Commonwealth/State marine parks permit issued by GBRMPA and QPWS for their historic discharge pipeline which extends from the refinery about 1km into Halifax Bay, between Saunders Beach and Bushland Beach. The pipeline is in waters that are overlapping Commonwealth and State marine parks
- The permit is exclusively for the presence of the infrastructure and does not allow the refinery to discharge anything through this pipe without further permission. This permit expired on 30 June 2013. The assessment of the application to renew their permit is currently being handled through the normal joint permitting arrangement between GBRMPA and QPWS. However acknowledging this is primarily a Commonwealth Marine Park issue as opposed to State (coastal) marine park, GBRMPA are taking the lead with the assessment. Permission has never been granted for discharge from the pipeline into the marine parks. An application to discharge from the pipeline have been refused in 2009 and 2011 by GBRMPA and QPWS.
- Therefore the pipelines purpose has solely been to provide for 'emergency discharge'.
- QPWS has supported GBRMPA's position (for the past 4 years) that it is not acceptable for Qld Nickel to discharge into the Marine Parks unless it is an emergency (1 in 50 year storm event) in which case they do not need permission under the Zoning Plans. Neither of the flooding events in 2009 and 2011 that resulted in discharge were considered by GBRMPA to be emergency events (i.e. not 1 in 50 year events for that area).
- The refinery also has several settling ponds which form the tailings storage facility. In the past, heavy wet seasons have sometimes resulted in overflows from the tailings storage facility or preemptive discharges through the ocean pipeline to reduce pond levels. This occurred in 2009 (associated with Cyclone Hamish) and 2011 (associated with Cyclone Yasi).
- There is a strong view that these events did not constitute the need for emergency discharge rather highlight the absence of appropriate actions to reduce the levels in the settling ponds for an extend period.
- This matter is contentious due to high environmental risks associated with any discharge, GBRMPA have been working with Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd and the Queensland Government (then DERM and now EHP) since 2009 to reduce the risk of unpermitted discharges or overflows from the refinery's tailings storage facility in future wet seasons.
- The EHP environmental authority for Qld Nickel acknowledges wet season discharge into the Marine Parks as an acceptable flood mitigation strategy in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of dam walls which arguably would have a greater impact on the surrounding wetlands and coastal habitat.
- The significance of the environment risks are high.
- Given the accumulation of volume in the Tailings and settlement ponds from predicted wet season rainfall combined with mine production, the pipeline which is only capable of pumping a maximum of 20ML/day, is considered not to be a prompt and effective emergency response but part of an ongoing mitigation strategy.
- **The most recent discharge from the pipeline of 516 tonnes of nitrogen represented a 14% increase in the annual load of nitrogen to the Burdekin catchment.** By way of a comparison the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the Queensland Government's ReefWise Farming initiatives have invested heavily in improving farming practices to remove similar loads of nitrogen from the Burdekin catchment (e.g. the

Burdekin Water Quality Improvement Plan has a target to remove approx. 350 tonnes of nitrogen through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan's Water Quality Grants investment program over 5 years). The discharge amounts contained high enough levels of nutrients and heavy metals to more than offset all of the gains achieved by farmers in the catchment over the past 5 years at a cost of millions of dollars through the Reef Rescue program.

- The quality of waste water that has been discharged into the marine parks from the pipeline significantly exceeds ANZECC Guidelines (2000) and the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guidelines (2009) for ammonia and several metals.

Participation in reference committee

- Damien Head has been contacted regarding participating in the reference committee, however is yet to respond to the request (request received AM on 25/9/13). The expertise of NPRSR officers on this matter may not be adequate to participate in such a science focused panels. The details on the reference committees roles and largely unknown at this stage.

Damien was contacted by:

George Lukacs | Director - Environment and Sustainability

QUEENSLAND NICKEL PTY LTD

Greenvale Street, Yabulu QLD 4818

P > +61 7 4720 6422 | F > +61 7 4751 1208 | M > 49-Sch4 - Mobile phone

E > George.Lukacs@qni.com.au <<mailto:George.Lukacs@qni.com.au>>

From: Lisa Myers [<mailto:Lisa.Myers@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 3:39 PM

To: DLO NPRSR

Cc: Cambourn Neil; Head Damien

Subject: Queensland Nickel Marine Parks permit application

Good afternoon

We have been approached by Queensland Nickel in relation to their MP permit application G36275. I understand GBRMPA have been going down this track for some time.

Can we please get some advice as to what NPRSR's role is in this? And whether the Dept supports the pipeline being removed?

I also understand Queensland Nickel are requesting Parks representation on a Reference Committee for the Independent Science Panel for the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery. Damien Head may have been approached.

If we could get some advice by COB 3 Oct that would be great.

Thanks



Lisa Myers

Policy Advisor | National Parks

Office of the Hon. Steve Dickson MP | Minister for National Parks, Recreation,
Sport and Racing

Phone: 07 3224 7477 | Fax: 07 3012 7725

111 George Street | Brisbane | QLD 4000

GPO Box 15187 | Brisbane | QLD 4001

Great State. Great Opportunity.

This email, together with any attachments, is intended for the named recipient(s) only; and may contain privileged and confidential information. If received in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this email and any copies of this from your computer system network.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and /or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

NPRSR - RTI DL RELEASE

4

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, SPORT & RACING

RESPONSE TO MINISTER'S OFFICE QUERY/WORK REQUEST

REQUEST DATE: 25 September 2013

ISSUE: Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd (Queensland Nickel) Outflow Pipeline Marine Park Application

QUESTIONS:

- Please provide some advice as to what the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing's (NPRSR) role is in regards to Queensland Nickel's marine park permit application G36275?
- Does NPRSR support the pipeline being removed?
- Queensland Nickel is requesting Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) representation on a Reference Committee for the Independent Science Panel for the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery. Damien Head may have been approached.

BACKGROUND:

- Queensland Nickel operates the Palmer Nickel and Cobalt Refinery in Yabulu, Townsville, North Queensland.

Pipeline

- Queensland Nickel has a joint Commonwealth/State marine parks permit issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and QPWS for their historic discharge pipeline, which extends from the refinery to about one kilometre into Halifax Bay, between Saunders Beach and Bushland Beach.
- The pipeline is in waters that are overlapping Commonwealth and State marine parks.
- The permit provides exclusively for the presence of the infrastructure and does not allow the refinery to discharge anything through this pipe without further permission.
- This permit expired on 30 June 2013.
- The assessment of the application to renew their permit is currently being handled through the normal joint permitting arrangement between GBRMPA and QPWS. However acknowledging this is primarily a Commonwealth marine park issue as opposed to the State's (coast) marine park, GBRMPA are taking the lead with the assessment.
- A key consideration of the assessment is the environmental risks associated with either retaining or seeking removal of the pipeline.
- The permit is still under assessment and it is unlikely that Queensland Nickel will be requested to remove the pipeline.
- Queensland Nickel has indicated they have no intention to discharge from the pipeline.

Pipeline Discharge

- A permission has never been granted for discharge from the pipeline into the marine parks, with two applications refused in 2009 and 2011 by GBRMPA and QPWS.
- Therefore the pipeline's sole purpose has remained for 'emergency discharge'.
- For the past four years, QPWS has supported GBRMPA's position that it is not acceptable for Queensland Nickel to discharge into the marine parks unless it is an emergency (1 in 50 year storm event) in which case, a permission is not needed under the zoning plans.

Prepared by: Damien Head Title: A/RD - GBR Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 4967 7350 Date Prepared: 26 September 2013	Endorsed by: Natalie Ormsby Title: A/Deputy Director General Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 3330 5270 Date: 1 October 2013	Recommended by: John Glaister Title: Director General, NPRSR Telephone: 3338 9307 Date Approved: 1/10
Date Received in MO:	MO Clearance by:	Date Cleared: 1/10

Neither of the flooding events in 2009 and 2011 that resulted in discharge were considered by GBRMPA to be emergency events (i.e. not 1 in 50 year events for that area).

- The refinery also has several settling ponds which form the tailings storage facility (TSF). In the past, heavy wet seasons have sometimes resulted in overflows from the TSF or pre-emptive discharges through the ocean pipeline to reduce pond levels. This occurred in 2009 (associated with Cyclone Hamish) and 2011 (associated with Cyclone Yasi).
- There is a strong view that these events did not constitute the need for emergency discharge, but rather highlighted the absence of appropriate actions to reduce the levels in the settling ponds for an extended period.
- This matter is contentious due to the high environmental risks associated with any discharge, GBRMPA have been working with Queensland Nickel and the Queensland Government (the then Department of Environment and Resource Management and now the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)) since 2009 to reduce the risk of unpermitted discharges or overflows from the refinery's TSF in future wet seasons.
- EHP environmental authority for Queensland Nickel acknowledges wet season discharge into the marine parks as an acceptable flood mitigation strategy in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of dam walls which arguably would have a greater impact on the surrounding wetlands and coastal habitat.
- Given the accumulation of volume in the TSF from predicted wet season rainfall combined with mine production, the pipeline which is only capable of pumping a maximum of 20 megalitres per day, is considered not to be a prompt and effective emergency response but part of an ongoing mitigation strategy.
- Notwithstanding, the environment costs associated with discharges are high.
- The most recent known discharge from the pipeline of 516 tonnes of nitrogen represented a 14% increase in the annual load of nitrogen to the Burdekin catchment.
- By way of a comparison the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the Queensland Government's ReefWise Farming Initiatives have invested heavily in improving farming practices to remove similar loads of nitrogen from the Burdekin catchment (e.g. the Burdekin Water Quality Improvement Plan has a target to remove approximately 350 tonnes of nitrogen through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan's Water Quality Grants investment program over five years). The discharge amounts referred to above contained high enough levels of nutrients and heavy metals to outweigh all of the gains achieved by farmers in the catchment over the past five years at a cost of millions of dollars through the Reef Rescue program.
- In addition, the quality of waste water that has been discharged into the marine parks from the pipeline significantly exceeds ANZECC Guidelines (2000) and the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guidelines (2009) for ammonia and several metals.

CURRENT STATUS

- To address many of the above concerns and oversee the formulation of discharge mitigation strategies two committees have been established by Queensland Nickel, an Independent Scientific Advisory Committee and a Government Reference Committee.
- The focus of the Government Reference Committee is to encourage open dialogue and repair relationships between Queensland Nickel and Government departments. In addition, the committee will identify appropriate strategies to minimise stormwater runoff into tailings facilities, explore and understand alternative disposal solutions and evaluate risks of further pipeline discharge.
- Queensland Nickel has sought NPRSR's interest in participating in the reference committee in conjunction with representatives from EHP (Ms Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, Regional Manager), Townsville Regional Council (Mr Gavin Lyons) and GBRMPA (Ms Rachel Reese, Manager).

Prepared by: Damien Head Title: A/RD - GBR Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 4967 7350 Date Prepared: 26 September 2013	Endorsed by: Natalie Ormsby Title: A/Deputy Director General Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 3330 5270 Date: 1 October 2013	Recommended by: John Glaister Title: Director General, NPRSR Telephone: 3338 9307 Date Approved:
Date Received in MO:	MO Clearance by:	Date Cleared:

- NPRSR will accept the offer to participate in the reference committee and will be represented by Mr Damien Head, A/Regional Director, Great Barrier Reef Region and Mr Jesse Low, Team Leader, Assessment and Approvals Unit.
- The reference committee plan to meet next early in 2014.

NPRSR - RTI DL RELEASE

Prepared by: Damien Head Title: A/RD - GBR Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 4967 7350 Date Prepared: 26 September 2013	Endorsed by: Natalie Ormsby Title: A/Deputy Director General Bus Area: QPWS Telephone: 3330 5270 Date: 1 October 2013	Recommended by: John Glaister Title: Director General, NPRSR Telephone: 3338 9307 Date Approved:
Date Received in MO:	MO Clearance by:	Date Cleared: