



CAIRNS PORT
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OUR PORT - OUR FUTURE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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State Government Backs-Off Contentious Ports Bill

The State Government's decision to postpone a parliamentary vote on the controversial Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015 has been cautiously welcomed by Cairns Port Development Chairman Ron Crew.

“The Bill as currently formulated would be a disaster for Cairns and the region's future development. It would be quite wrong for Cairns and Mourilyan to be locked into not being able to upgrade port capacity to meet modern shipping and future navy needs.”

“The Parliament's own committee unanimously agreed with the representations put forward by the Cairns community that the Bill was flawed. It is clear that the Cairns and region community want Cairns and Mourilyan seaports able to be deepened and upgraded.”

“On Tuesday I presented a petition of over 6,000 signatures to the parliament. The State Government now needs to scrap the Bill as currently formulated and work with the wider Cairns community and the Commonwealth Government to find a satisfactory way forward.”

Mr. Crew notes that even government MP Glenn Butcher, who was one of three government members along with three opposition members who all agreed to support Cairns receiving priority port status, warmly endorsed Cairns claim to port expansion.

Quoting Mr. Butcher, "We wish to make it clear that we do not want the economic development of Cairns to be shut down. However, we do not support the at-sea disposal of dredge spoil."

Ron Crew agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Butcher, "Our group accepts the decision to ban offshore placement. We believe that placement on degraded land at East Trinity is ideally suited for rehabilitation reclamation and ultimate development for recreational parkland and residential usage."

Ends

For further interview opportunities, contact: E: admin@cairnsport.org.au

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