



**CAIRNS PORT**  
DEVELOPMENT INC  
OUR PORT - OUR FUTURE

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Mega Port is Another Mega Porky, says Cairns Ports Development Inc. Chairman**

Cairns Port Development chairman RON CREW condemns the Cairns & Far North Environment Centre for what he describes as "bald-faced lies", published in a full page Cairns Post 'Open Letter' advertisement.

"CAFNEC are continuing to peddle the falsehood that advocates of port deepening are seeking an "industrial mega port that allows unlimited capital dredging" unquote. Worse, CAFNEC are nonsensically claiming that "Cairns risks become an industrial port like Gladstone." unquote, supporting this blatant untruth with a photograph of Gladstone port on a brochure that's been handed-out all over F.N.Q."

Ron Crew reiterates: "We have never advocated a 'mega port' - it's a mega PORKY on the part of CAFNEC environmental extremists. Nor would any sensible person foresee Cairns as "an industrial port", we are merely seeking government approval to allow Cairns to meet the demands of modern shipping, allowing larger cruise liners and the ships of our Navy and those of our allies to berth in the city".

Ron expresses sympathy for the near one-hundred small business owners and tourist operators who have 'signed' CAFNEC's open-letter advertisement. "They have been seriously misled, tricked in to supporting what's largely a pack of lies"....

"In fact, CPDI is endeavouring to SUPPORT enterprises exactly like theirs – by ensuring that Cairns and Port Douglas are given opportunity to host passengers off cruise ships that currently moor off-shore, where countless passengers, many of them wealthy retirees, decline to be ferried to a jetty for a bus transfer to the city. Even a mild sea-swell discourages older passengers from transferring, and the very businesses conned in to supporting CAFNEC's advertisement miss-out on the money they would spend".

"CAFNEC are also repeating their furphy that dredging the port of Cairns would cost "up to or over \$400 million", having reduced this ridiculous claim by \$40 million: their brochure stated \$440 million. Neither figure is anywhere near the truth,

CPDI have expert advice that the real cost would be in the realm of \$200 million, half CAFNEC's vastly exaggerated figure".

Ron recalls that CAFNEC were equally shrill in their opposition to SkyRail, which is now a major environmental asset. "Dredging the port is no greater "threat to the environment" than was SkyRail - CPDI have always advocated the disposal of dredge spoil on LAND, and CAFNEC are clearly oblivious of the fact that much of Cairns City itself is built on land that was reclaimed by dredge fill".

"I urge everyone to ignore CAFNEC's scurrilous use of blatant scare tactics and outright lies - and, again, I don't for a moment blame the business-folk who 'signed' their support for CAFNEC's open-letter advertisement - they have been well and truly tricked".

## **Ends**

For further interview opportunities, contact: E: [admin@cairnsport.org.au](mailto:admin@cairnsport.org.au)

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