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Director, Environment Planning
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
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*Re **New Coastal Management District (CMD)** under the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 (**Coastal Act**).*

North Queensland Conservation Council is the regional conservation council acting as the voice for the environment across the area from Bowen to Cardwell and from the Reef to the NT border. NQCC was established in 1974 and incorporated in 1984.

Based in Townsville, with a large industrial port, a large and growing population on the coastal strip and immediate proximity to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, NQCC is very conscious of the need for world class coastal management. It appreciates that the current State government shares this understanding.

In relation to the proposed new Coastal management District (CMD) under the Coastal Act, NQCC fully supports the integration of predicted sea level rise into the new CMD. In the light of ongoing climate change, this is seen as responsible and logical. It's earlier exclusion by the previous government was the converse.

Nevertheless, NQCC takes this opportunity of reminding the State government that its continued support of Queensland's fossil fuel industry and delayed introduction of appropriate incentives for renewable energy, serve only to worsen climate change and with it sea level rise, with all the costs and hardships that this will involve. NQCC will continue to press for less contradictory policies and practices, and looks forward to more State support for a fair, just and early transition from fossil fuel-based to renewable energy in Queensland, the 'smart', 'sunshine' State.

In relation to the new CMD, NQCC applauds the inclusion of additional sites in the CMD where permanent inundation by tidal water is expected. This will ensure that development proposals are subjected to adequate scrutiny to assess whether they are responsible given their location.

The preparation of a new coastal planning instrument, similar to the Coastal Plan State Planning Policy produced by the previous Labor government, is seen as essential, particularly if the Coastal Act is to be integrated into new planning legislation.

NQCC gives consent for publication of this submission.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Tubman', is written in a cursive style.

Wendy Tubman, Coordinator