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NQCC blasts Queensland Nickel over proposed dumping

North Queensland Conservation Council today slammed the proposal by Queensland Nickel that it be allowed to dump water from its tailing ponds in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

“If, as alleged, water levels in the ponds are ‘dangerously high’, the ponds ‘at risk of catastrophic failure’ and the situation has ‘developed over several years’, management at the site must be nothing short of appalling” said NQCC Coordinator, Wendy Tubman. “And this from a company that claims to deliver real environmental benefits to the surrounding community with a water treatment plant that ‘eliminated the risk of discharge from overflowing tailings ponds into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.’”

“It reflects very clearly the attitude of Queensland Nickel owner Clive Palmer, that he is asking to dump massive quantities of contaminated water in the Marine Park not only in contravention of his own claims but also at the same time as UNESCO is warning that unless water quality improves by next February, the whole Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area may be listed as ‘In Danger’. To me, that is just plain arrogant”, Tubman said.

“When potentially damaging activities are considered, the long-term environmental record of the applicant is also considered. Mr Palmer, with his applications for extensive mining plans currently being assessed, may wish to keep that in mind when making outrageous requests such as this for his nickel processing activities at Yabulu.”

NQCC today sought legal advice on preventing the dumping of the and wrote to both the State and Federal Ministers for the Environment.

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