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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Land disposal for speed and private profit or protection?**

While NQCC sees a move away from sea-dumping as positive, land-based dumping options must be properly assessed, planned, implemented and monitored, according to North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

Ms Tubman was referring to the recent announcement by the state government that they have identified an onshore site for disposal of the Abbot Point dredge material, and will be asking the federal government to approve it as a matter of urgency.

'However, the state government's sudden turn-around looks more like a quick and dirty way of helping Indian-based coal giant Adani avoid a legal challenge to the port development than a genuine attempt to protect the environment' she said.

'Despite repeatedly claiming that offshore disposal of dredge spoil was the best option, we now see the state government attempting to rush through an approval for the spoil to be placed on the coast at Abbot Point. It seems that the goal posts have been shifted, and that speed and private profit are now more important than environmental protection.

Adani has recently been found guilty of massive premeditated environmental damage and accused of human rights violations in similar development in India,

'None of the land-based disposal options considered in the Public Environment Report for Abbot Point were adequately assessed', said Ms Tubman.

'Land-based disposal of dredge spoil is an important step in protecting the Reef, but if it's done badly then it simply creates a new series of problems.

'And, of course, it is only one of the many impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area related to port expansion.

'We have been fighting on several other fronts; the impact of dredging; the impact of climate change – acknowledged by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as the greatest threat to the Reef; and the impact of vastly increased shipping, to name just some.

Ms Tubman also queried who would be paying for any land-based disposal. 'We do not want to see the public pay for this. Disposing of unwanted by-products or waste is a cost of doing business. The companies not the community must pick up the tab for it', she said.

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