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Your ref: 154 Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Date: 12 August 2014

World Heritage Centre
UNESCO 7, Place de Fontenoy
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E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org

RE: Queensland Government Pledge to “Limit” Impacts from Dredging and Ports on GBR Lagoon:

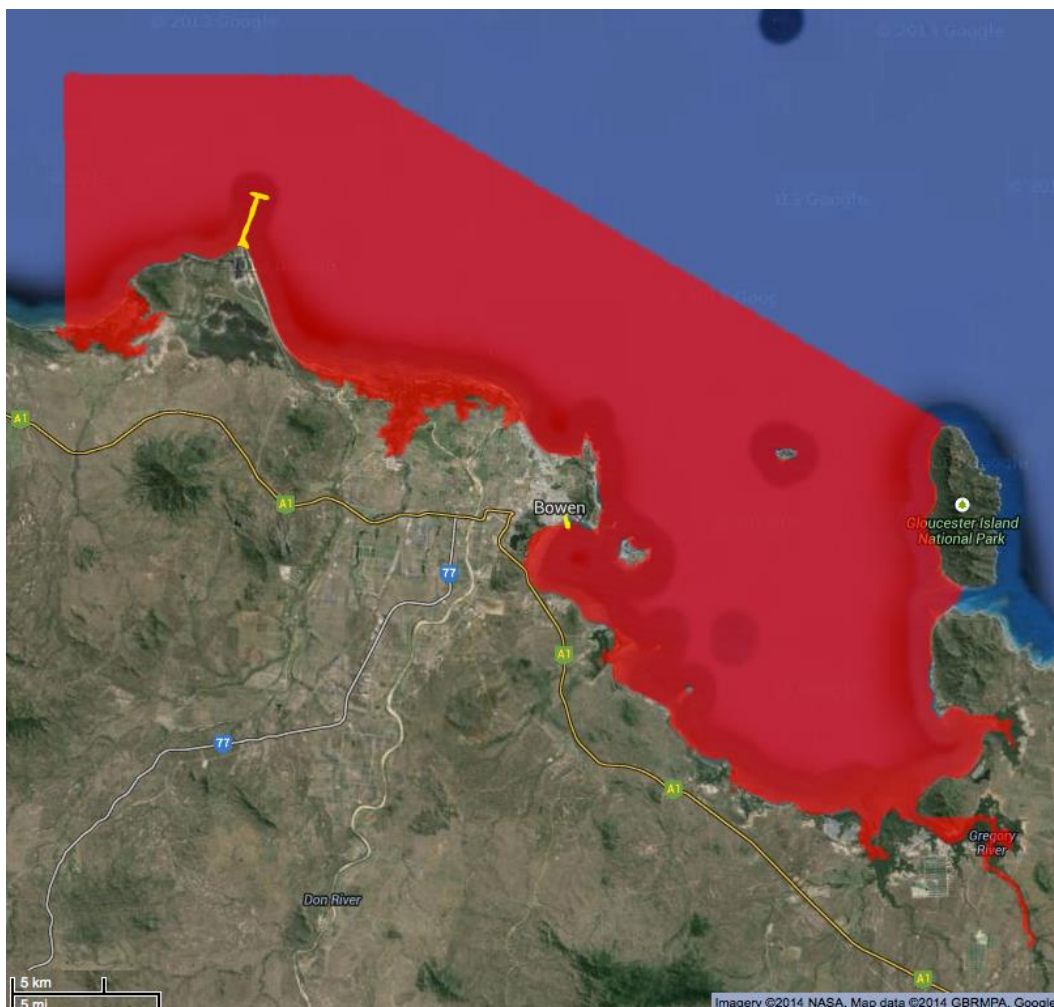
The Queensland government states in its Queensland Ports Strategy, released in May 2014, that they will declare five (5) Priority Port Development Areas (PPDAs) at Abbott Point, Brisbane, Gladstone, Hay Point & Mackay and Townsville, all except Brisbane are in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area lagoon. From the information supplied so far it appears very likely that these PPDAs will not be the existing developed port areas but the significantly larger defined navigation areas for the ports (shown in red on the maps below with existing port facilities in yellow). If the expected PPDAs are declared they will substantially increase the area of the GBR lagoon to which the Queensland government will “limit” any dredging and port development or extension for the next 10 years. This could result in a substantial increase in dredging and infrastructure in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The required legislation to create these PPDAs, which will include their final boundaries, is proposed to be passed by the end of 2014.

Clearly, the Queensland Government’s commitment to limit future dredging and port expansion to the proposed PPDAs is disingenuous and deceitful if, as expected, they are the same areas as the declared Port limits. We are very concerned, and draw these concerns to your attention, as the expected areas of these PPDAs would open up the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area lagoon to a potentially massive level of industrial expansion.

The attached plans show the current port limits and likely PPDAs in red with existing port facilities in yellow.

Yours sincerely

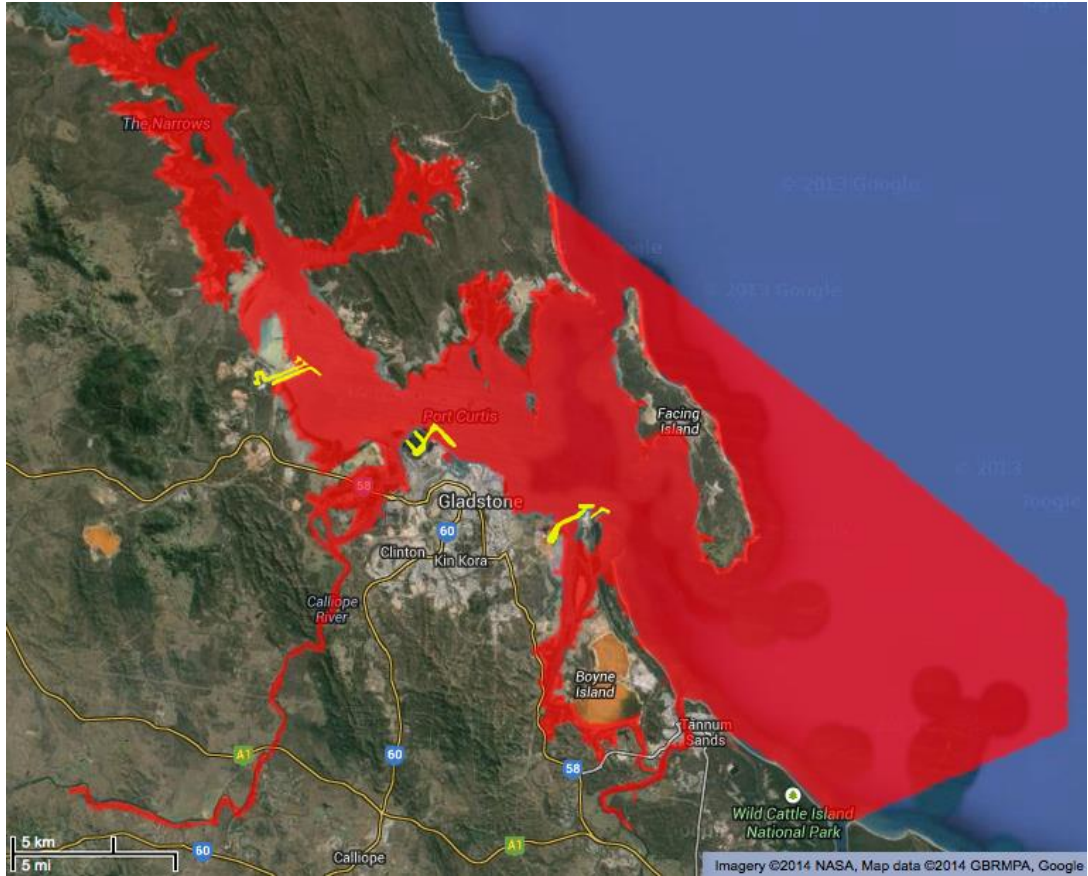
Mark Buttrose – President, EDO NQ Management Committee



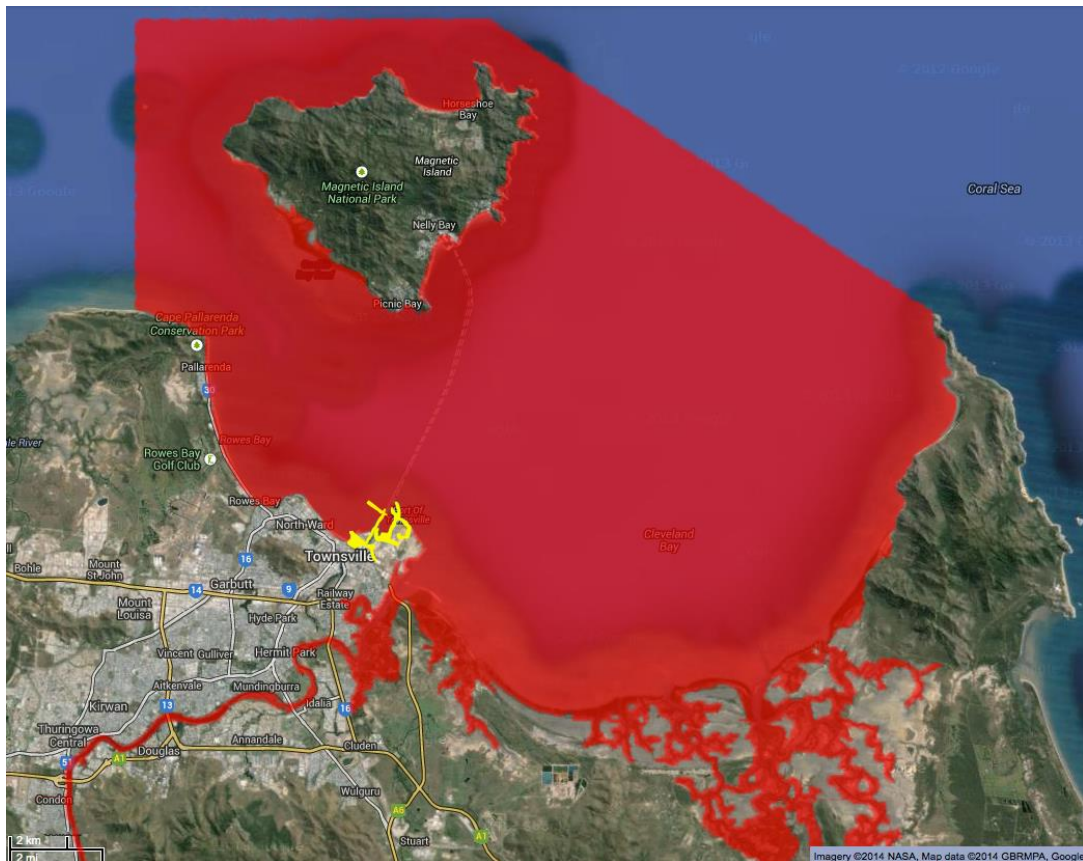
Attachment 1: Abbott Point – Likely PPDA



Attachment 2: These two areas will join to form the likely single Hay Point/Mackay PPDA



Attachment 3: Gladstone – Likely PPDA



Attachment 4: Townsville – Likely PPDA