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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications References Committee

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

By Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Ports North is responsible for the development and management of operations of regional Far North Queensland Ports (Cairns, Cape Flattery, Mourilyan, Thursday Island, and Cooktown) within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Ports North's activities within the region are critical to the State economy with Cairns Port alone contributing over \$2B to Gross State Product and total employment of over 24,000. These Port locations are intrinsically linked to the community prosperity and functionality of these Ports and is critical to the Tourism, Reef and Cruise sectors and the regional economy.

We strongly believe that Port operations and growth can continue whilst ensuring important environmental values are protected. We have a long and successful history of responsible, well managed operations near areas of high conservation value and are strongly committed to ensure the long term capacity of natural values in and surrounding Port areas are appropriately conserved and protected.

A comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cairns Shipping Development Project is underway and has the distinction, over previous Great Barrier Reef Port development proposals, of incorporating the most recent State and Federal EIS Terms of Reference Guidelines, new GBRMPA Hydrodynamic Modelling Guidelines and conclusions from the Strategic Assessment. This process is utilising a leading practice science based approach that will be significantly influenced by outcomes of recent major projects.

Ports North has contributed to the submission by the Queensland Ports Association on this matter and fully supports that submission.

We welcome the opportunity to provide input to the inquiry on the effectiveness of past, present and future management of the Great Barrier Reef.

Yours sincerely

Alan Vico

GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND PROJECTS

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