



The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Minister for the Environment

MC15-009060

The Hon. Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 4 MAR 2015

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 2015 (reference 987/1466) on behalf of the Standing Committee on Petitions, regarding the Abbot Point Coal Terminal expansion.

The Government is balancing carefully the need to protect the Great Barrier Reef while allowing sustainable development for the nation. The Government does this taking into account our international environmental obligations and in accordance with national environmental law. Public participation and judicial review are important to the effective operation of environmental impact assessment under national environmental law. I do not consider that any changes to the current provisions are necessary.

In regards to the proposed expansion of the Port of Abbot Point, I am acutely aware of the level of public interest in this matter and am committed to applying a rigorous and thorough environmental impact assessment process to these projects. I must assess each controlled action in a way that will efficiently address all relevant impacts.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt