

# CONTENTS

Membership of the Committee .....	iii
Terms of Reference .....	v
Abbreviations.....	ix
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAIR'S FOREWORD .....</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Conduct of the inquiry .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Overview of submissions.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Controversial character of the Port Hinchinbrook development.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview of issues .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PORT HINCHINBROOK.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Brief description of Port Hinchinbrook .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>History of the development .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Tekin development 1980s.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Cardwell Properties development proposal 1993-4.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>May 1994: the Queensland government's Environmental Review Report.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>September 1994: the Deed of Agreement .....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>November 1994: Senator Faulkner's proclamations halt work.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>1996: reconsideration by the new Commonwealth government .....</i>	<i>18</i>
<b>CHAPTER 3 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>DISCUSSION OF PORT HINCHINBROOK APPROVAL PROCESSES .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The Tekin period .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The Queensland government's 1994 approval .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>The Deed of Agreement .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Senator Faulkner's proclamations .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Senator Hill's 1996 consent .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<i>The Friends of Hinchinbrook Federal Court challenge.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<b>Changes to the development.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Size of the development site .....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Application to rezone parts of 'the Land' to Special Facilities.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Claimed change from 'integrated resort' to 'real-estate development' .....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>How to handle changes to development proposals?.....</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Where a development needs a number of permits .....</i>	<i>47</i>
<b>Conclusions on Port Hinchinbrook approval processes.....</b>	<b>49</b>

<b>CHAPTER 4 .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PORT HINCHINBROOK.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Impacts of acid sulfate soil .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<i>The Acid Sulfate Management Plan .....</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Evidence on acid leachate .....</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Evidence on environmental harm from acid leachate .....</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Comment .....</i>	<i>68</i>
<b>Impacts on seagrass and dugongs.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<i>Background.....</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Impacts on seagrass.....</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Impacts on dugongs .....</i>	<i>77</i>
<b>Impacts on other species.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Aesthetic impacts on the wilderness area .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Impacts of increased tourism .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Conclusions on environmental impacts of Port Hinchinbrook.....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5 .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>OTHER ISSUES .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Social and economic effects of Port Hinchinbrook on Cardwell .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<i>Infrastructure needs of the development.....</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Economic viability of the development .....</i>	<i>91</i>
<b>Other environmental issues for the Hinchinbrook Region .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<i>Aquaculture.....</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Cane farming .....</i>	<i>97</i>
<i>Dungeness marina proposal .....</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>The role of science in this type of debate .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<i>Claimed intimidation of scientists .....</i>	<i>107</i>
<b>Some general questions.....</b>	<b>109</b>
<i>How to ensure independent environmental assessment .....</i>	<i>109</i>
<i>The right balance between environment and development.....</i>	<i>109</i>
<i>Local interests versus national interests.....</i>	<i>114</i>
<i>The Regional Coastal Management Plan.....</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>The Hinchinbrook Island National Park Management Plan.....</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>Ecotourism.....</i>	<i>123</i>
<i>World Heritage management of the Great Barrier Reef.....</i>	<i>124</i>
<b>CHAPTER 6 .....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory environmental assessment procedures at Port Hinchinbrook.....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Need for upfront environmental impact assessment .....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Need for transparent rules for public input .....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Need for regional planning .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>FIGURES .....</b>	<b>137</b>

<b>APPENDIX 1: SUBMISSIONS .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: WITNESSES AT HEARINGS .....</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: DOCUMENTS TABLED AT HEARINGS .....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: FURTHER INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: LETTER OF AGREEMENT 1993 .....</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6: ACID SULFATE SOILS .....</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY &amp; REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>ALP SENATORS' MINORITY REPORT.....</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT SENATORS' REPORT .....</b>	<b>161</b>

## ABBREVIATIONS

ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
ASS	acid sulfate soil
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEH	[Queensland] Department of Environment and Heritage (now known as Environmental Protection Agency)
DEST	[Commonwealth] Department of Environment, Sport and Territories
DNR	[Queensland] Department of Natural Resources
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	[Qld] Environmental Protection Agency (formerly known as Department of Environment and Heritage)
EPIC Act	<i>Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 (Cth)</i>
ERR	Environmental Review Report
ESD	ecologically sustainable development
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
NECS	National Environmental Consultancy Services
NQCC	North Queensland Conservation Council
PASS	potential acid sulfate soil
QASSIT	Queensland Acid Sulfate Soils Investigation Team
SKM	Sinclair Knight Merz
USL	Unallocated State Land
WHPC Act	<i>World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983 (Cth)</i>

