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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gladstone Conservation Council is very concerned about the Newman Governments release regarding their Port Strategy for the next 10 years. While we commend their intent for no further capital development outside the existing ports Mr. Seeney states "the draft Queensland Ports Strategy aligns with the recommendation made by UNESCO that the Australian and Queensland Governments restrict port development outside the long established major port areas within or adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area"

The Gladstone Conservation Council wishes first of all to point out that this is for a period of 10 years, we do not think that would fit in with UNESCO's recommendations. Secondly 4 of the Priority Port Development Areas are within The GBRWHA, therefore any major or capital dredging or development in these ports will impact the values of the GBRWHA. We have already seen the devastation caused in the Gladstone Harbour where only approximately half of the proposed dredging has taken place. Does the Government class the northern end of Curtis Island as an existing port, bearing in mind that there is absolutely no industrial development there and in fact in the Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan put out by the Government in 2003 states "the remote settlements of Sea Hill and Station Point are within an area highly vulnerable to physical coastal processes. There is State land in the vicinity of Maria Inlet and Sea Hill requiring consideration of an appropriate management regime that protects coastal resources and values"

No one in their right mind can in any way suggest that Port Alma, Balaclava Island or Northern Curtis Island are a major port yet it is under the Gladstone Ports Corporation's banner, is it still open for capital dredging?

As far as Gladstone goes does the Government intend to make sure that there is no coastline left undeveloped? If Gladstone Harbour loses anymore of its mangroves, seagrasses etc the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park loses its nursery.

Cheryl Watson

Treasurer

Gladstone Conservation Council