

From: Cheryl Watson <cheryl.watson5@bigpond.com>
Date: 30 July 2013 1:47:53 pm AEST
To: Mark Butler <mark.butler.mp@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Abbot Point

Sent from my iPad

Dear Minister Butler,

I phoned your office this afternoon and now wish to follow this up with this email.

I have lived at South End on Curtis Island, Gladstone Queensland for 4 years permanently but have been coming here for 28 - 29 years. South End is a tiny village of 100 houses and about 25 permanent residents.

I honestly am quite horrified that any Government would think of expanding any port within the GBRWHA.

I have seen first hand what the dredging has done to the Gladstone Harbour and it sickens me to think that this could be repeated somewhere else. We were told that "world's best practice" was used in Gladstone regarding the dredging. If that is the case heaven help those of the future. I am not a Scientist but I have lived in Gladstone for 51 years and the Harbour has been a major part of our lives. My husband has sailed on the harbour for approximately 28 years and then for about another 28 years we have been coming across the harbour to South End. We are constantly told by the Gladstone Ports Corporation and the Queensland Government of both persuasions that the turbidity is not a problem in Gladstone and that the dredging hasn't caused any of the problems with the fish. The fish problem was blamed on the flood waters, however I find it strange that the whole Queensland coast had record floods, yet Gladstone was the only place to have major problems. You cannot have mudflats with 50 odd years of industrial waste combined with acid sulphate soil backhoe dredged and it not have a detrimental effect. We have seen our harbour change over the last approx 3 years and it has not been for the better.

Over the last 13 to 15 years Gladstone has lost the fishing industry and a profitable small crop industry (Yarwun and Targinnie Area), for what?

Recently GPC media reports state that there is no problems with the Seagrass.

This is an extract from a letter to me dated 8th March, 2012 signed by James Barker, Assistant Secretary, compliance and Enforcement Branch, Australian Government, Dept. Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

"The Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project was assessed to result in the direct loss of

approximately 40 ha of Seagrass and a potential indirect impact (mainly through turbidity) on up to an additional 1,406 ha of Seagrass in the Gladstone Harbour". This is stating that there is the potential to negatively effect up to 1,046 ha of precious Seagrass beds and someone in that Department approved it. Please don't reply back about how you "offset" this damage because I have seen how manipulated and dishonest this system is.

How can anyone sincerely state that the proposed dredging of Abbot Point will not have a detrimental effect on the local environs? Please show some leadership on this issue and stop this madness.

Recently the Gladstone Ports Corporation put out a media release regarding their environmental impacts from the last two decades. Please ring me on 0408727492 to gain an objective criticism of this release. This will perhaps show you why the GPC and Governments have such a low standing in the public, especially Gladstone.

Don't you believe that the GBRWHA is too precious to gamble, do you want your children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy this wonder just as you are able? If the answer is yes then you must put a stop to this dredging.

Regards,
Cheryl Watson