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27<sup>TH</sup> January, 2010.

The Hon. Peter Garrett,  
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and The Arts

Dear Minister Garrett,

**RE: CURTIS ISLAND, GLADSTONE HARBOUR, GLADSTONE.  
QUEENSLAND.**

Please find listed below concerns I have regarding the above.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF GLADSTONE HARBOUR  
BECAUSE OF GLADSTONE PORTS CORPORATION, PROPOSED  
WESTERN BASIN DREDGING AND DISPOSAL PROJECT AND  
LNG INDUSTRY ON CURTIS ISLAND**

**The Gladstone Harbour is being promoted by the Queensland Government as a deep water harbour yet just to dredge the Western Basin will require approximately 50 million cubic metres of spoil to be dredged. At this stage nothing has been mentioned with regards to the extra dredging to provide a second channel to the entrance of Gladstone's outer harbour that the LNG Industry requires for both safety and commercial expedience (proponent has stated that they cannot be held up by other shipping). At present there are 5 proponents planning to build LNG plants in Gladstone Harbour (4 on Curtis Island and 1 on the mainland at Fisherman's Landing) and each of these companies are allowing in their EIS's for their own dredging and disposal of spoil on Curtis Island. This is on top of the already mentioned Western Basin and duplication of channel. Gladstone Harbour has a healthy population of Dugongs, dolphins, turtles, crabs,**

prawns and a great variety of fish as well as the largest boating population per capita in Queensland. I have grave concerns regarding the removal of the seagrass beds and the sediment arising from the dredging to the other areas of the harbour. How will our harbour cope with all the extra activities that the LNG Industry will bring?

For environmental values please contact The Capricornia Conservation Council at Rockhampton email: [ccc@cnet.com.au](mailto:ccc@cnet.com.au), website: [www.cccqld.org.au](http://www.cccqld.org.au) or phone 07-49278644 or contact your Queensland counterpart for a copy of their 16 page submission regarding the Western Basin Dredging.

Professor of Environmental Science at James Cook University wrote to Michelle Wicks, Acting Assistant Secretary, Environmental Assessment Branch, DEWHA, Canberra on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 of our concerns regarding the environmental health of Gladstone Harbour.

Where else in the world would a Western Government put heavy industry on a sub tropical island relatively untouched since its discovery.

#### **SAFETY OF GLADSTONE HARBOUR, PEOPLE OF GLADSTONE AND THE ECONOMY OF QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA.**

The Federal Minister for Flynn in his speech to the House of Representatives on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 states and I quote "Gladstone Port has a naturally deepwater harbour" unquote. Please let me draw to your attention to the following:

Gladstone Ports Corporations website for the Western Basin Strategic Dredging and Disposal Project – Initial Advise Statement March, 2009 please note the following:

GHD (Company doing the EIS) page 2 of the Introduction –

#### **1.4 Location**

"The Port of Gladstone (the Port) is a shallow, semi-enclosed estuarine system located on the Central Queensland Coast approximately 525 kilometres north of Brisbane and 100 kilometres south of Rockhampton"

Why is this misconception being continually quoted?

According to Professor Emeritus James A. Fay, email: [jfay@mit.edu](mailto:jfay@mit.edu) or Cambridge 617-253-2236, at the moment the LNG Industry does have a good safety record. This is due to 95% of LNG proponents being members of SIGTTO (Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators Ltd). This organization has a set of rules and regulations relating to the safe siting of LNG Terminals and Jetties which unfortunately is being ignored in the siting of LNG in the Gladstone Harbour and other areas in the world, all in the name of greed. Has the Queensland Government sort the expertise of this organization when making the decision of the siting of the LNG Industry?

**One of the first rules is “an LNG terminal should not be situated at the end of a long narrow waterway with navigational hazards” Gladstone Harbour is full of navigational hazards, hence my reference to the depth of our harbour. Another rule is that Tankers should not pass close to urbanization. These tankers will pass within approximately 1 kilometre of the Gladstone city centre and urbanization.**

The Boston Harbour has been touted as a wonderful example of the LNG Industry and urbanization, however I wish to quote the following:

“House speaker Robert A DeLeo, hometown of Winthrop borders Boston Harbour, scheduled an urgent safety summit because of concerns of LNG coming from Yemen (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 BOSTON GLOBE). His concern was that Yemen was a known haven for terror cells and that these ships will be coming close to densely populated areas” Please bear in mind that this is just a small passage as time does not allow me to include everything but if you look at the Save the Passamaquoddy Bay Site you will find an amazing amount of information relating to the LNG Industry in America.

**Where will the LNG from the Gladstone Harbour be sold, what nationalities will the crew consist of? Sadly from where I stand the Queensland Government is seeing this bar of gold in the distance and is not putting enough thought into either the environment or the security of our City and the economy of Queensland or Australia. If the**

**unthinkable happened in the Gladstone Harbour, it would have far reaching effects on the Australian economy.**

## **HERITAGE**

**With all the new industries as well as the expansion of the existing industries, the historical love the Gladstone People have with their harbour may be lost or at the very least impaired. Will the historical Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race still be able to finish in the Gladstone Harbour or will greed take precedence? What will become of the remains of the World War 1 Soldier Settlements on Curtis Island?**

**I suggest that you have a look at – [www.savecurtisisland.com](http://www.savecurtisisland.com), western downs alliance and [www.Save Passamaquoddy Bay.org](http://www.SavePassamaquoddyBay.org) .**

**While I understand that some of the issues I have raised may not be your particular area, I would appreciate it if you would be able to forward any or all of this email to relative persons. I look forward to an early reply.**

**Yours truly,**

**Cheryl Watson**