



Save the Reef
Dr Andrew Jeremijenko
Email: andrewjenko@hotmail.com

Dear Dr Jeremijenko

Thank you for your email dated 15 November 2012 to the Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Dr Russell Reichelt. The Chairman has asked me to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

I am advised that the Delegate for the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities approved Revision 9 of the Water Quality Management Plan on 29 November 2012 and Revision 7 of the Dredge Management Plan on 30 November 2012 for the Port of Gladstone Western Basin Strategic Dredging and Disposal Project (EPBC 2009/4904). In granting approval, the Delegate retained both light and turbidity trigger levels.

At the 35th meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum in Brisbane, the following matters were discussed and commitments made. These included:

- An agreement on the directions to be taken to avoid the reef being overwhelmed by pressures such as coastal development and declining water quality.
- Highlighted the importance of stewardship programs in improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Agreed that the Australian and Queensland Governments would work towards updating the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan by July 2013.
- Agreed that the Australian and Queensland Governments would continue to work together to maintain the Great Barrier Reef's Outstanding Universal Value. This will be achieved through the Strategic Assessment and other environmental assessment processes.
- Australia will submit an updated State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2013 for consideration at its next meeting in June 2013. Ministers noted that this report was being prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2013.
- Noted the progress and scope of the Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the expected timeframes for delivery. Ministers further agreed to work together to scope a long-term plan for the sustainable development of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area informed by the comprehensive Strategic Assessment, and report to Ministers in March 2013.
- Ministers agreed that the Australian and Queensland Governments would jointly develop an outcomes-based framework to provide a systematic process for continual improvement to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area including targets to be monitored, reported and adapted over time. Progress on this task will be reported to the next forum in 2013.

These statements demonstrate the Australian and Queensland Governments' commitment to meeting the expectations of the World Heritage Committee. The GBRMPA also plays a crucial role in the delivery of these outcomes.

We are currently preparing the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment and are actively working with the Queensland Government to complete the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment.

As you have stated, the new Queensland Government has proposed a number of changes to existing legislation that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The GBRMPA has reviewed the proposed amendments to Queensland legislation and has provided significant comment. We will continue to work with the Queensland Government to further review and refine their legislative and policy positions to ensure that they afford the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area with the highest levels of protection.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hugh Yorkston, Director, Coastal Ecosystems and Water Quality, on 4750 0723 or email hugh.yorkston@gbrmpa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Elliot
General Manager

8 JAN 2013