

26 March 2013

Ms Anthea Tinney PSM
Chairperson
Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone
PO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Tinney

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. Please find attached the Queensland Resources Council's (QRC) submission on the Issues Paper and Terms of Reference.

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is unquestionably one of the most important features of Australia's biodiversity, as evidenced by its World Heritage listing through the recognition of its outstanding universal values. The resources sector has a very strong social licence to operate interest in preserving the biodiversity of the iconic GBR and our industry recognises that the health of both the reef and the resources sector are intertwined.

The review into the management arrangements of Gladstone Harbour is a welcome opportunity to look at current and proposed development, the economic benefits that they are already providing and the safety and environmental regulations that are currently helping to protect the reef and more broadly the GBR World Heritage Area.

The purpose of our submission is to outline and reinforce:

- i. the long and established history of the port (having been operational for nearly 100 years within the sensitive coastal region);
- ii. the importance of the port to regional communities and the state and national economies;
- iii. the stringent regulatory system already in place within the region with several project examples;
- iv. the nature in which Outstanding Universal Values are actually expressed within the region;
- v. the resource industry's performance and role in managing major project developments; and
- vi. several suggested governance, assessment and ongoing management improvements for the consideration of the review committee.

QRC's fundamental position in relation to the GBR and industry is that there needs to be a focus on a risk management approach and on the activities that actually impact on the reef, rather than populist or emotive reactions to interest group and media commentary. The fulfilment of (legal and ethical) obligations and transparent presentation of factual scientific information by industry, governments and the community is essential if this is to occur.

Ultimately, the Port of Gladstone is the largest multi-cargo port in Queensland in terms of tonnage, and the fourth largest in Australia. It is the major bulk commodity port and future Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) hub of Queensland. It also caters to all forms of container and general cargoes. Recognition of the Port of Gladstone's intrinsic value to the prosperity of Queensland and its citizens is vital in undertaking this review.

The QRC is supportive of leading practice approaches to all aspects of project development and environmental management, but strongly opposes any retrospective application of new policy or alteration to conditions to existing projects as this creates enormous project risk and uncertainty.

David Rynne, Director Economics and Infrastructure (davidr@qrc.org.au) and Frances Hayter, Director Environment Policy (francesh@qrc.org.au) are the key contacts on these matters.

The QRC would be pleased to meet with members of the Independent Review to further discuss and elaborate on the information contained in the submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Roche
Chief Executive