



NATURAL TREASURE, NOT RUBBISH DUMP

STOPPING DUMPING ON OUR REEF

The Greens' plan for protecting the Reef from industrial dumping

The Great Barrier Reef is under threat like never before: it has lost 50% of its coral cover in the last twenty five years; it is threatened by climate change, land-based pollution and rampant industrialisation. We need to urgently reduce these pressures on the Reef so that it can survive this century.

The old parties know that offshore dumping damages the Reef. Senate estimates revealed that draft reports from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority suggest that the damage could be even worse than initially expected. Instead of standing up for the people who depend on a healthy Reef, the old parties have given into the mining companies, who want to dump dredge spoil so that building new coal ports is quicker and cheaper.

Dumping of port dredging spoil offshore in the Great Barrier Reef world heritage area seriously threatens the health of marine life and corals including by degrading water quality, mobilising legacy pollutants, including heavy metals found in ports and harbours, and smothering flora and fauna.

> BANNING OFFSHORE DUMPING

Our plan will ban offshore dumping:

- **No new permits for offshore dumping to be issued.**
- **No new permits for dredging to be issued, unless there is a plan to dispose of the dredge onshore.**
- **Some maintenance dredging will need to continue; however any further permits need to be reviewed and informed by the best available science to minimise impacts, ideally by reducing dredging and finding onshore solutions.**

> WHY DUMPING IS A PROBLEM?

At last update, since 2000, the dumping of 22 million cubic metres of dredge spoil has been approved.

It was revealed in senate estimates last week that new draft research by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, using 3D modelling and factoring in deep ocean currents, indicates that dumped dredge spoil travels further than previously thought.

We understand there are currently five applications to dump dredge spoil offshore being assessed by the federal government – four of these are in the Great Barrier Reef marine park: Abbott Point, Hay/Dudgeon Point, Townsville, Gladstone's second shipping channel and Cairns. *(All but the Cairns development are to expand fossil fuel exports.)*

Last week leading Reef scientists told a Senate inquiry into The Greens' bill to protect the Reef that dredge spoil is highly damaging to the Reef, and should simply not be dumped in a world heritage area.

> DUMPING REGULATION STATUS QUO

In considering whether to permit dumping of dredge spoil offshore, our international obligations under the *London Protocol (which bans offshore dumping with few exceptions)* are that alternatives to dumping offshore need to be fully evaluated. The Greens are very concerned this is not currently being done properly resulting in the extensive offshore dumping permitted in the world heritage area to date.



Australia's international obligations are given force by the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*, administered by the Environment Minister.

Where a proposed disposal of dredge spoil at sea is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environment significance, in this case, impacting on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area then EPBC Act approval is also required.