

5 April 2013

As local reef tourism operators we feel very strongly that protecting the reef is critical to not only all Australians, but to the all citizens of the world. We have the most incredible living ecosystem in the oceans in our backyard, but not enough is being done to protect it from rapid port expansion, dredging and increased shipping through the reef. Coal dust is a very damaging pollutant to the reef itself, never mind the communities living close to these massive coal stockpiles. The Great Barrier Reef tourism & fishing industries are equally under threat from the rapid expansions and unnecessary sprawling facilities. Optimise and use existing capacity. Do not build new ports on the GBR coast line please?

We live just downwind and down current from the largest instact estuary feeding into the GBR, the Fitzroy Delta. It is a critical feeding and breeding ground for hundreds of species, some critically endangered and threatened. Port development in this area is highly inappropriate.

Please consider halting all further development approvals until existing capacity is fully allocated and consider moving away from destructive fossil fuels and putting Australia in the forefront as a pioneer of renewable energy.

Our world depends on it.

Kind regards
Laureth Craggs