

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Committee, Public Works \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: submission-National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ
Date: Sunday, 15 March 2020 7:17:44 PM

To the committee regarding the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ,

This redevelopment is about deciding whether or not to retain the existing facility or demolish it. \$26.9 million is a reasonable amount considering the age and type of facility. As long as well authored contract arrangements are made with the contractor to avoid ridiculous budget blowouts the redevelopment would be good for the city. As I understand the report, it is currently a hazardous environment waiting for a serious incident to occur with escalating patchwork repair costs required to maintain operation. This redevelopment is about deciding whether or not to retain the existing facility or demolish it. Tourism will be in a lull this year making the redevelopment a timely exercise. I therefore encourage the funding of this project.

This is a substantial undertaking for the facility. Currently sale of flora from the facility is forbidden. The facility operates a number of mission critical systems that will need to be carefully replaced to avoid damage to the installation. I question if some minor expansions to the facility could be constructed that would serve as a contingency during construction and operation but also serve the secondary purpose during operation as a not-for-profit propagation facility. The scale of infrastructure required to treat, store and maintain the water used in the facility is substantial. slightly overbuilding this infrastructure to accommodate this auxiliary facility would significantly subsidize its operation. the facility could provide educational and community benefits for the indigenous community and volunteering opportunities for university students, providing the sale of propagated and excess biota that could further improve the financial sustainability of the center as a whole while also undermining illegal reef harvesting operations and raising awareness of this issue. Tours of the propagation facility could also further subsidize its' operation.

I would invite the committee to engage in consultation with stakeholders to inquire into interest in such a project and offer quotes for stages of such a propagation facility. ie. If 5 million were to be added to the project, what could we get?

Robert Heron

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