

19 December 2000



The Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communication, Information
Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY - CLARIFICATION OF EVIDENCE

In evidence to the Committee at the Supplementary Estimates hearings on 23 November 2000 (Hansard page 21) I referred to the status of work at the Nelly Bay Harbour construction site. I advised the Committee that from 1 December 2000 the site was to be placed in shut down mode and advised the Committee that this did not mean that work on the site would entirely stop. Temporary shut down procedures are an element of the Nelly Bay Harbour Environmental Impact Management Plan. I used the term 'shut down' to indicate the site is to be prepared for potential extreme weather events - so that it can be 'shut down' at short notice. On reading my evidence in Hansard I have formed the opinion that the Committee may have been left with the impression that once the site is in a 'shut down' state no work would continue for the duration of the wet season. In fact, I had intended to suggest that the site would be 'shut down' for the duration of the extreme weather conditions. Excavation work can continue when weather permits. The agreed Wet Season Management Plan requires that any work occurring during the wet season minimises the potential for erosion and sediment mobilisation.

My comment regarding maintenance of the site in a condition that ensures the environment is protected referred to the work that will occur during shut down periods.

I would be grateful if you would bring this clarification to the Committee's attention.

Yours sincerely

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