

15 February 2013

Ms Emily Janus
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited
Reply Paid 409
Brisbane Qld 4001

Public Environment Report Response

Dear Ms Janus,

Bowen and Collinsville Enterprise (BCE) has been the voice of Bowen and Collinsville as the local regional economic development organisation for the past 15 years. Supporting the growth of the local economy is paramount in BCE's charter. However of equal importance has been BCE's role in co-ordinating the views of the community in response to significant local matters.

In responding to North Queensland Bulk Port's Corporation (NQBP), Public Environment Report (PER), BCE is genuinely reflecting the majority views of a community. These community views have been formed through public meetings where prior to the report's publication more extensive consultation should have occurred. Ultimately the dredging program and the disposal of it's spoil is the most sensitive issue for the local community. The location identified in the PER is highly sensitive to the local recreational and commercial fishing community and it is perceived that the impact on these groups are far too great.

The response from BCE to the PER is that it supports the development of Abbot Point as the most significant development and economic driver for the region's economy. The development of the Port and it's associated infrastructure, will not only be a driver for the region's economy, but also the State's and the Commonwealth. It is far too important for the region's future for the development of Abbot Point to sit in a stalled position or be perceived that the community at large is unsupportive. Notwithstanding the support of the project as a whole, BCE does not support the proposed dredging program and the location of the spoil disposal.

As a result of BCE's stance it is important that alternatives are suggested that the community and BCE would support, it is imperative that these are explored post haste. The two potential alternatives of which the community and BCE would support are below:

1. Disposal of the dredge spoil on land
2. Disposal of the dredge spoil at sea, co-ordinates are 19.43.284 - South 148.41.722 – East, this site would be acceptable and have least impact on the community

Should NQBP change the location of the spoil disposal to either of these locations, BCE would support the dredging program in full. Any additional alternatives provided by NQBP will be reviewed by BCE on their individual merits and if deemed suitable support would be provided.

Let me reiterate, the Board of BCE and the community of Bowen and Collinsville not only recognise the importance of Abbot Point's development for their future prosperity, but also recognise the importance to the State and the Nation. However, the message with this particular element of the development is that it has lacked the necessary consultation. An important economic sector within the local economy being the commercial fishing industry has lacked the ability to consult fully through the process. This is also coupled with the recreational fishing community a key driver for community's liveability.

NQBP is urged to review the site of the dredge spoil disposal to locations that are more agreeable to the community.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Darwen
Chairman
Bowen and Collinsville Enterprise