Ports and the Great Barrier Reef

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SMART PORTS • BRIGHT FUTURE

Who is NQBP?

OVER
50%
QUEENSLAND
TRADE
SMART PORTS · BRIGHT FUTURE

ABBOT POINT

HAY POINT

MACKAY

WEIPA

Hay Point
No. of ships
Throughput in tonnes
1133
2015-16
115,768,354

Abbot Point
No. of ships
324
Throughput in tonnes
2015-16
27,053,965

Mackay

No. of ships

164

Throughput in tonnes

2015-16

2,829,464

From 1 July 15 – 30 June 16

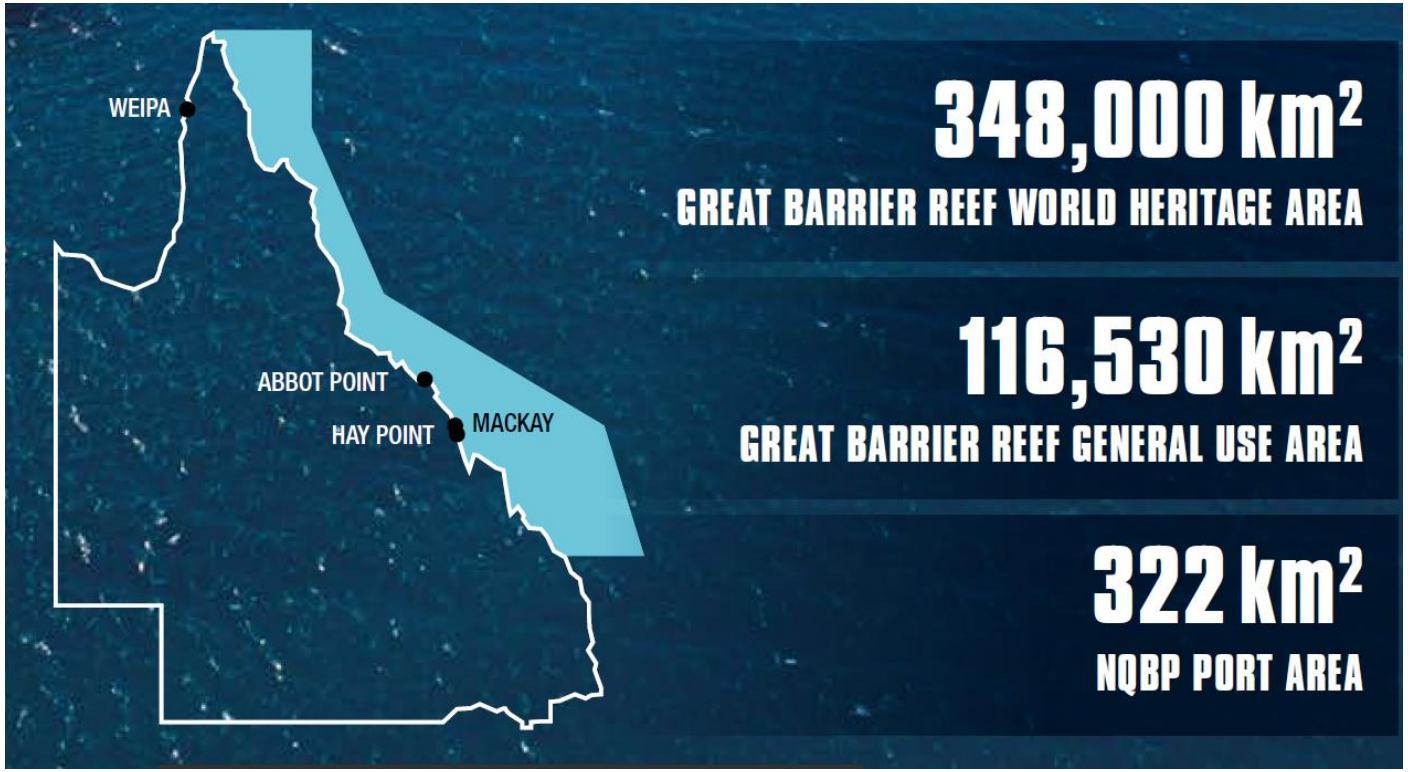
- **Total Trade – 178 Mtpa**
- **Total Ships - 2280**

Weipa

2015-16

No. of ships	659
Throughput in tonnes	32,400,274

So what about the Reef?


WEIPA
ABBOT POINT
HAY POINT
MACKAY
348,000 km²
GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA
116,530 km²
GREAT BARRIER REEF GENERAL USE AREA
322 km²
NQBP PORT AREA

Controls

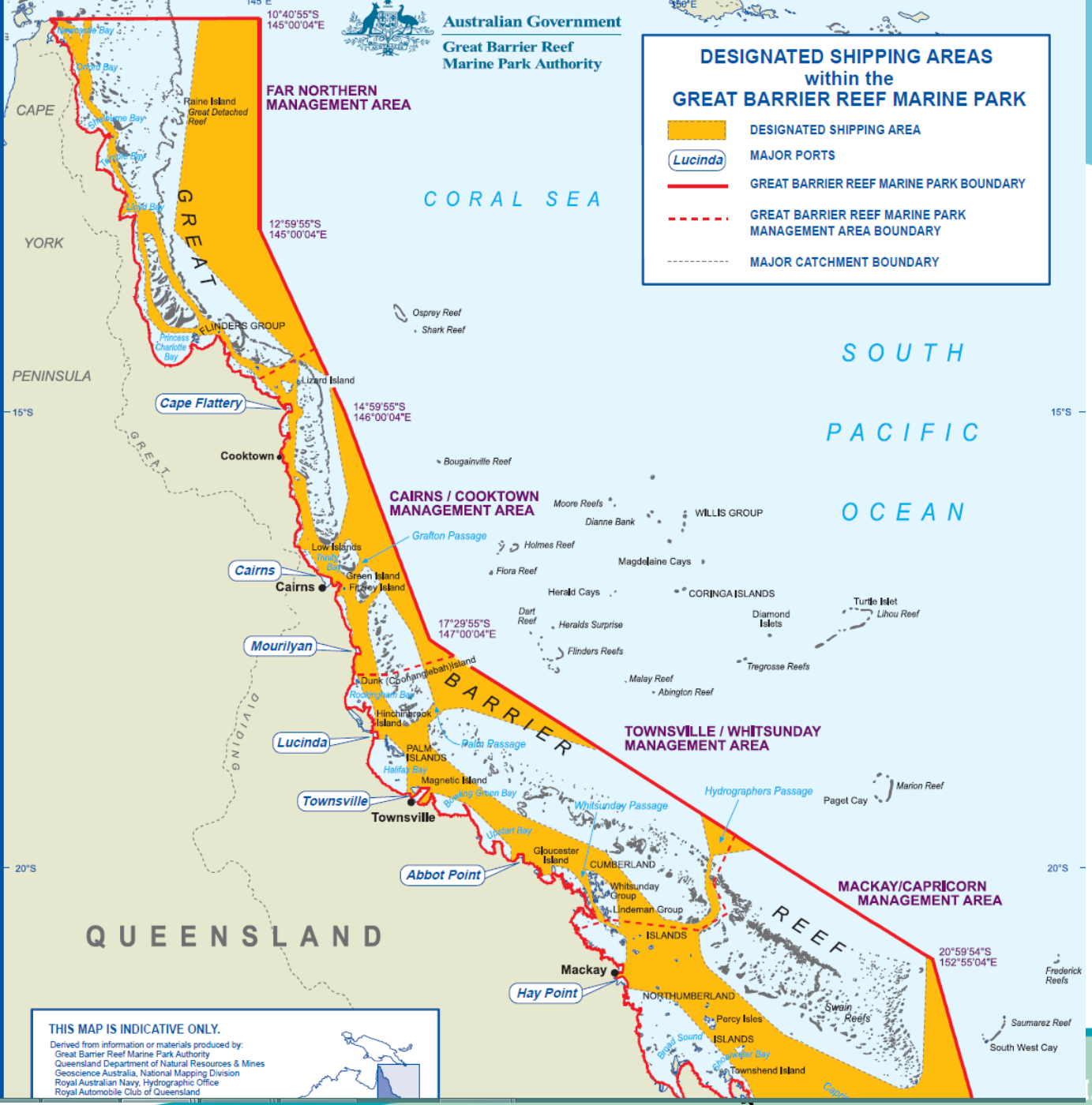
Strong Legislation

Federal

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.
- Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act.
- Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution of Ships) Act.

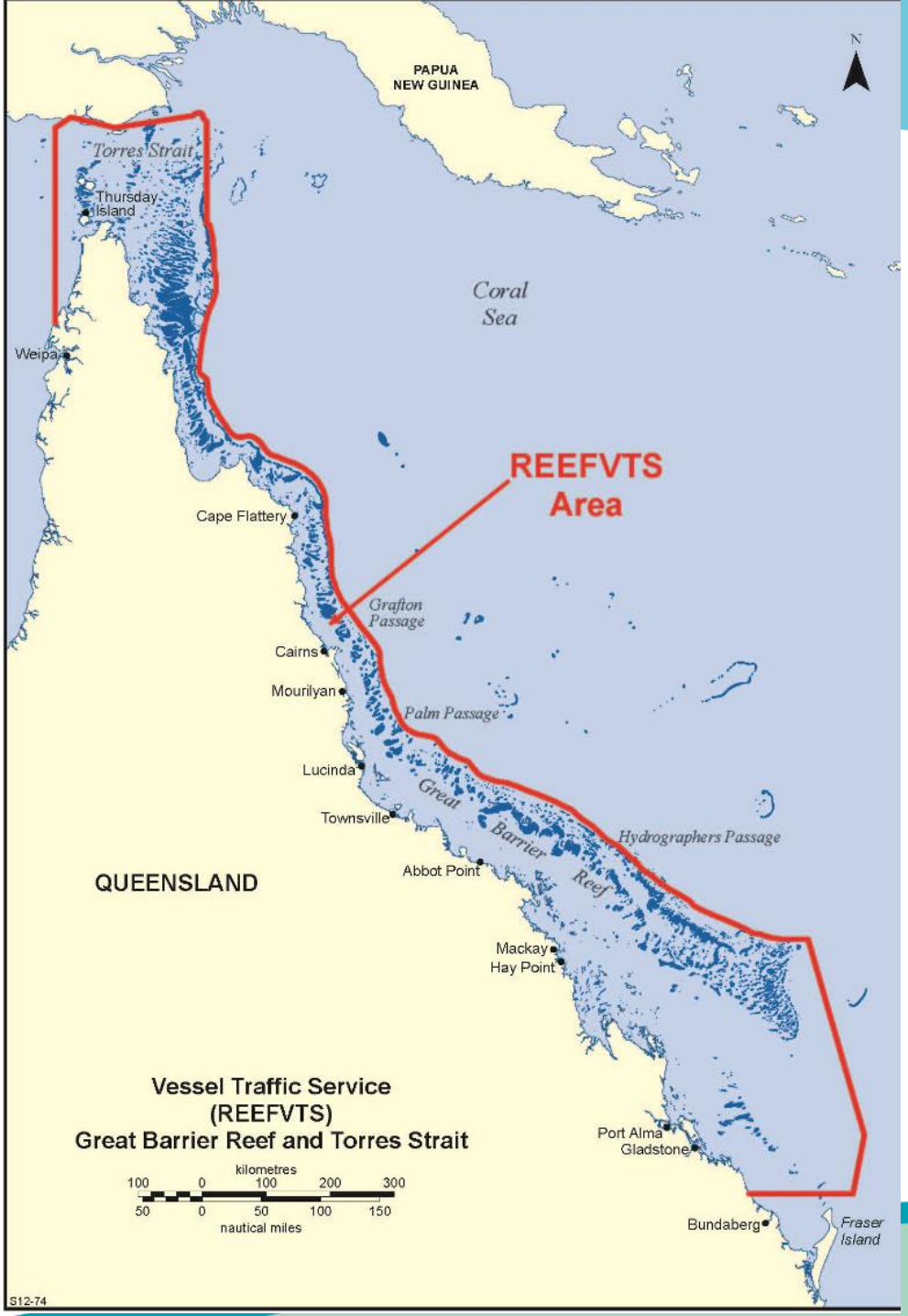
State

- Marine Park Act.
- Sustainable Planning Act.
- Environmental Protection Act.
- Fisheries Act.
- Coastal Management Act.
- Nature Conservation Act.
- Vegetation Management Act.
- Transport Infrastructure Act.
- Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act.



NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS CORPORATION

Designated Shipping Areas through the Reef.



NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS CORPORATION

Covers 6000 km (~3700 miles) of coastline.

World leading (and one of the largst).

24/7 operation.

Reef pilots.

Joint Federal and State Government Operation

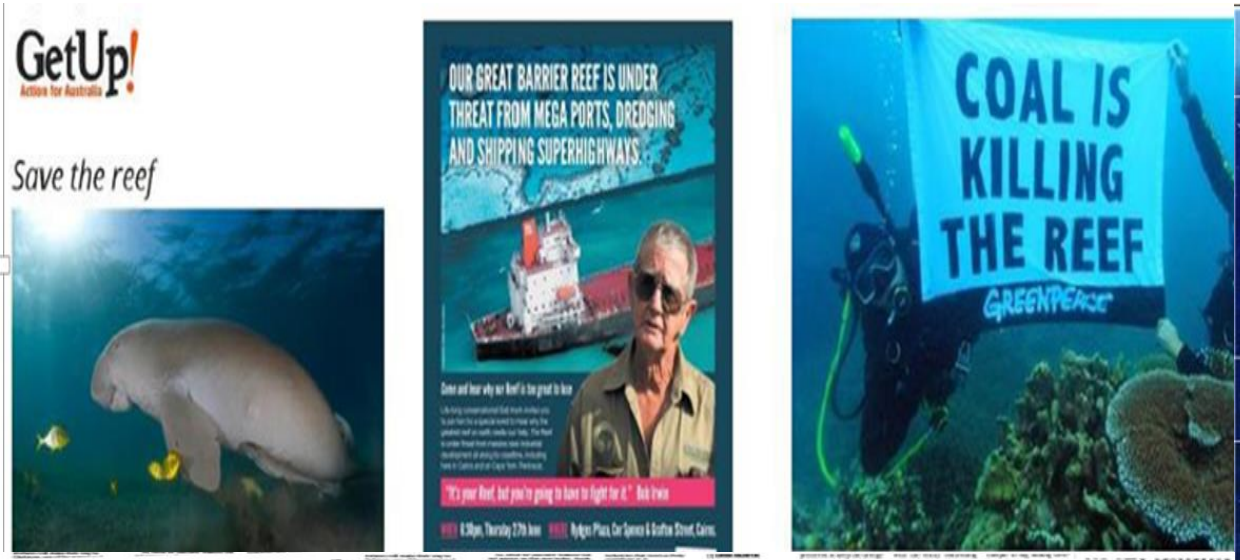
~ 4200 vessel movements annually

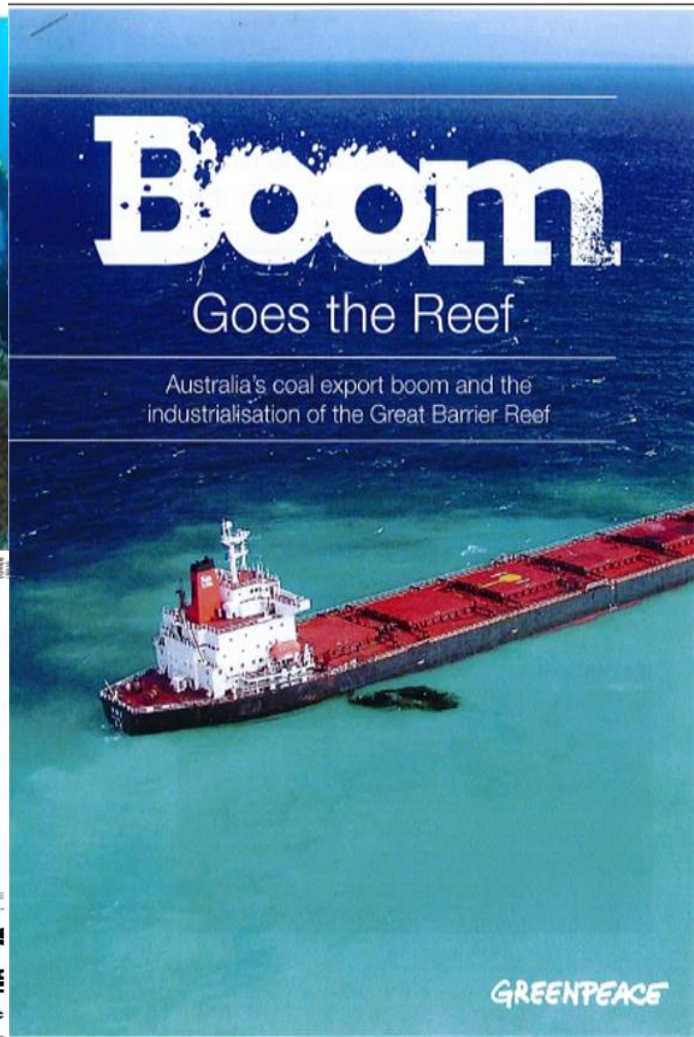
SMART PORTS • BRIGHT FUTURE

Challenges of recent years

NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS CORPORATION

2012 UNESCO monitoring mission and report increases focus and scrutiny on port development in Queensland…





CONFUSED GRIEF OVER THE REEF

The Great Barrier Reef's health is as much a political as environmental issue

Disinvestment critique is black gold

DUMP SITE TEST OF COAL VIABILITY

ABC all puff and wind on coal

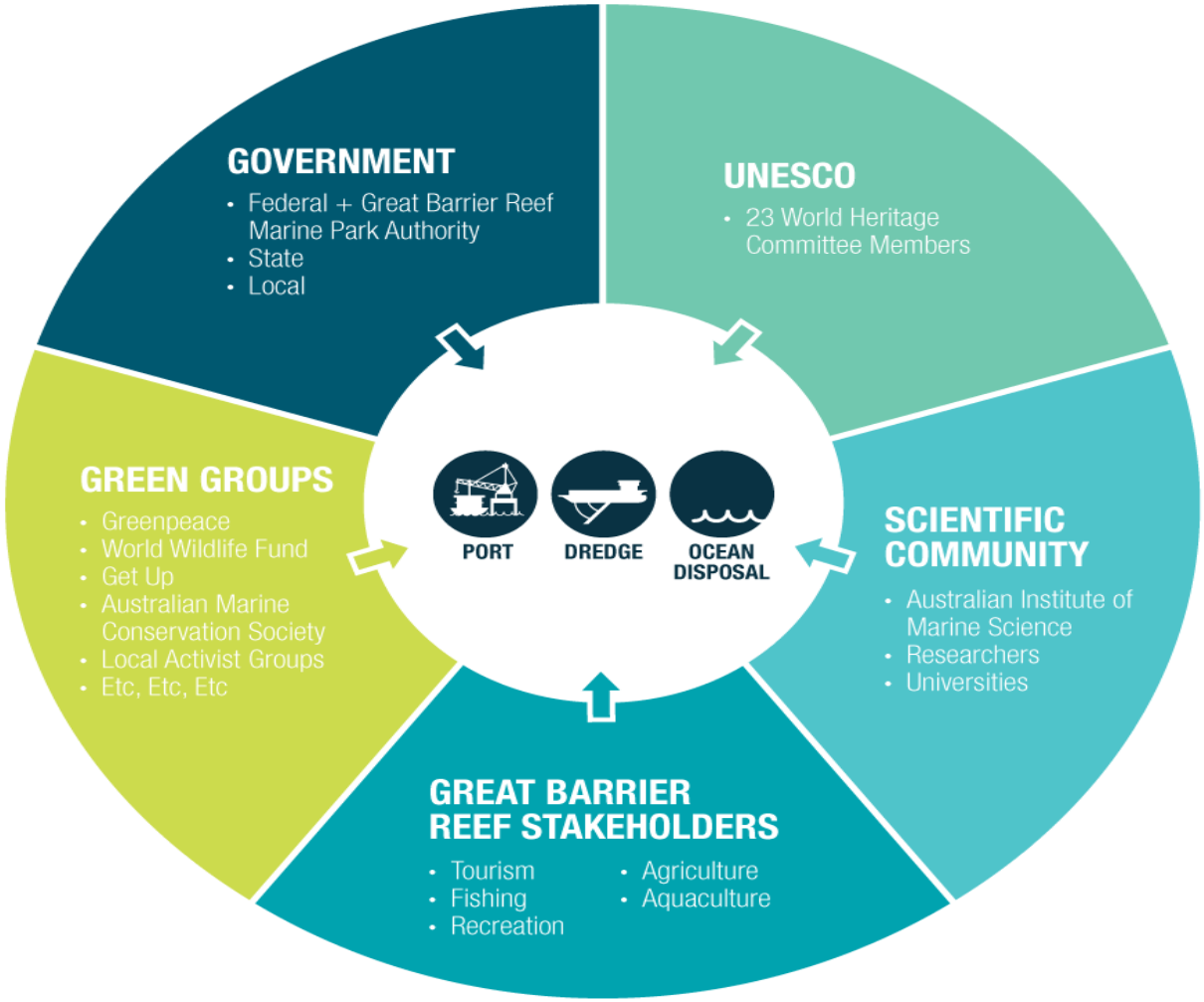
Climate change groupthink robs audience of rational debate

Dredge waste to go onshore

Newman backflips over reef dumping

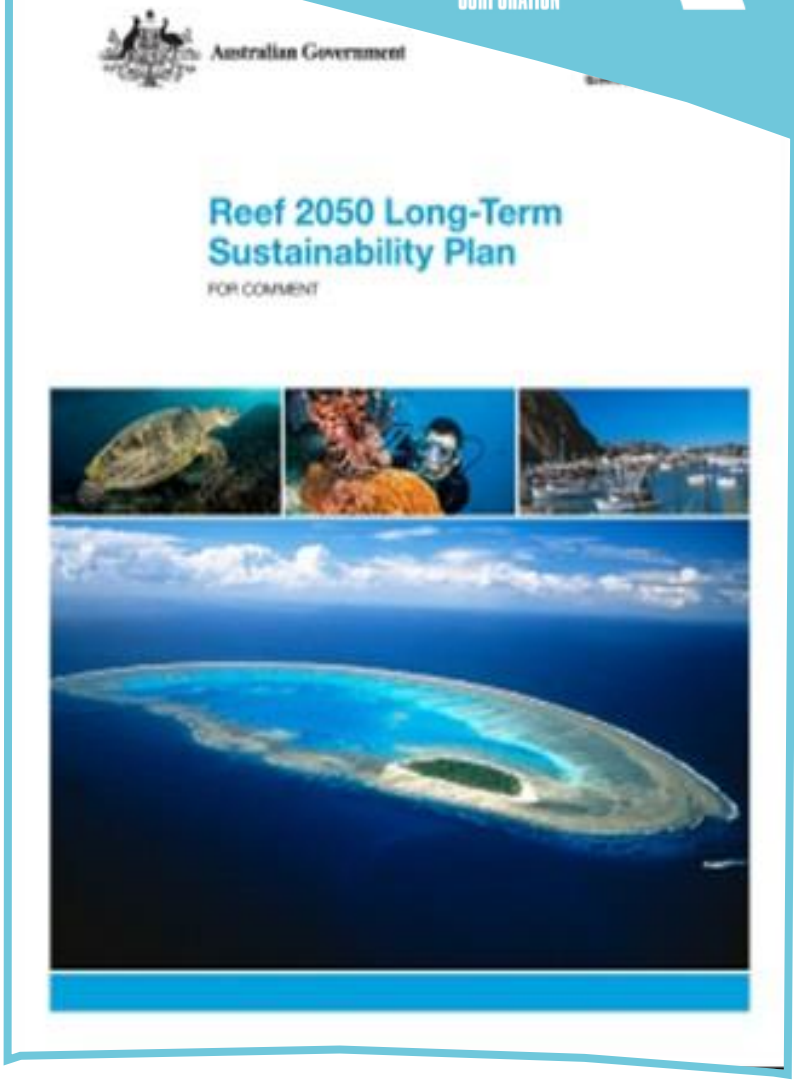
State refuses to say how much onshore plan will c

Complex Stakeholder Issues – Ocean Planning



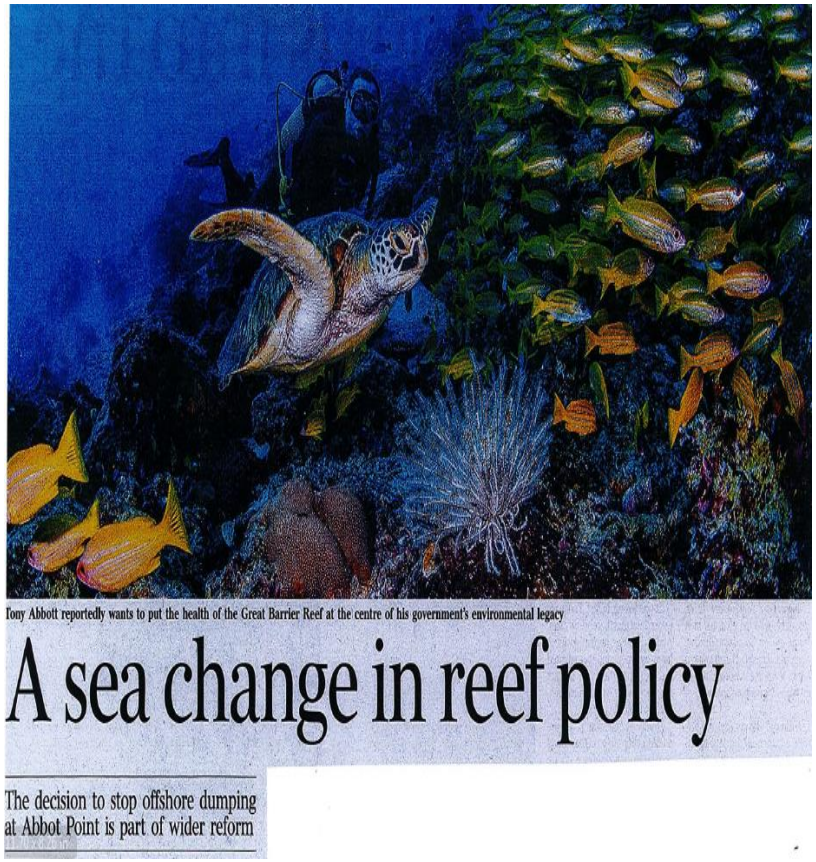
Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan

- Government's response to the UNESCO review and decision.
- Best managed reef in the world.
- Balance environmental management with economic and social prosperity.
- Commitment to future research to improve overall environment.
- 139 specific actions



So what does this all mean?

Great Barrier Reef Policy



Tony Abbott reportedly wants to put the health of the Great Barrier Reef at the centre of his government's environmental legacy

A sea change in reef policy

The decision to stop offshore dumping at Abbot Point is part of wider reform

- Ban on capital dredge material disposal in World Heritage Area (incl within port limits)
- Increased restrictions on maintenance dredging
- Increased offsets and net benefits
- Mandatory port master plans (new legislation)

Our Proactive Approach

Leading Practice in Ocean + GBR Port Planning

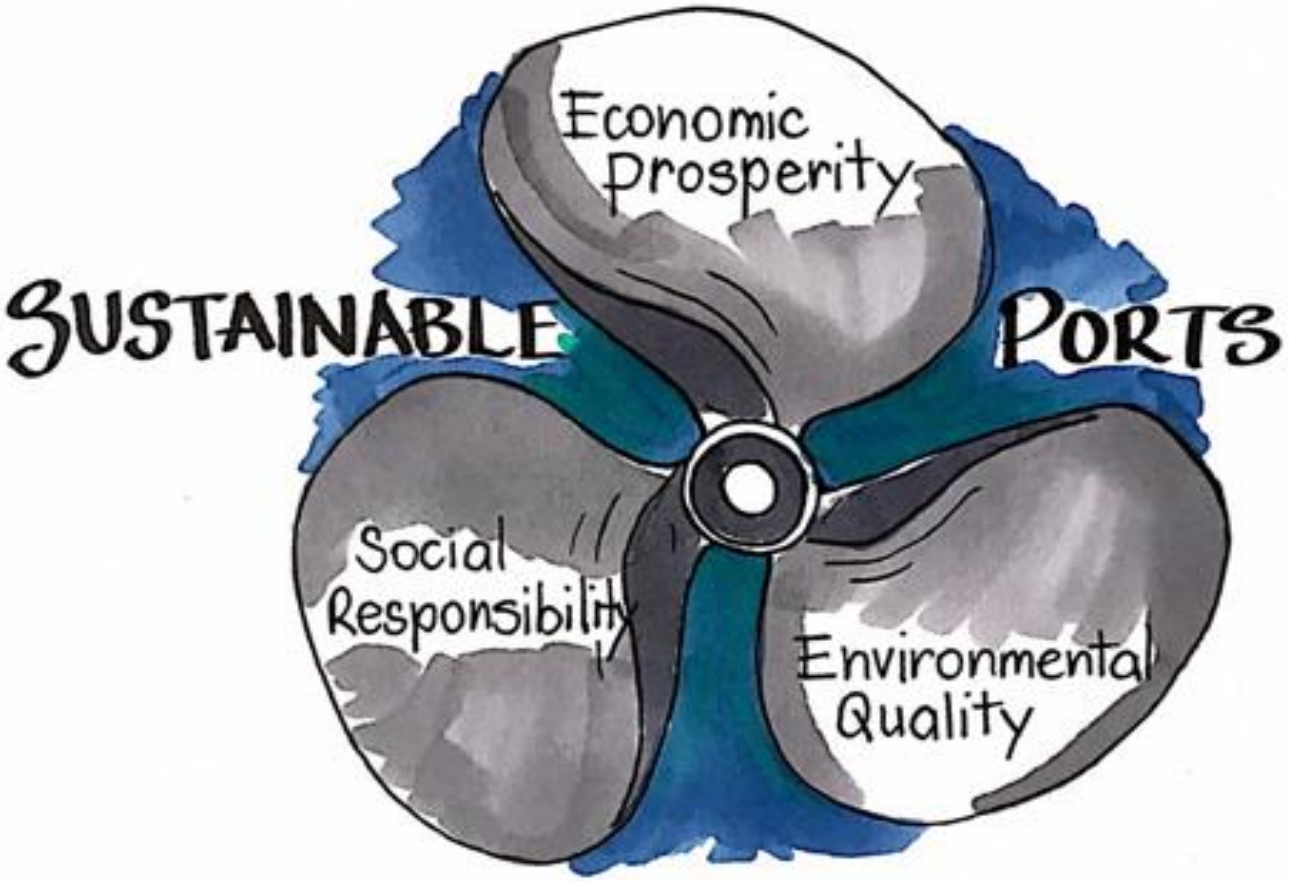
- Port representation in Reef 2050 Advisory Committee + NE Shipping Mgmt Plan.
- Lead Ports Australia Dredging Code of Practice (Released Sept 16).
- Input into Port Master Planning Guidelines and Environmental Management Frameworks.
- Input into Federal Reef Trust offsets and net benefits calculator + CIA Guidelines.
- Lead role in the development of Reef Integrated Environmental Monitoring + Reporting.
- Environmental Report Cards.

Integrated Monitoring

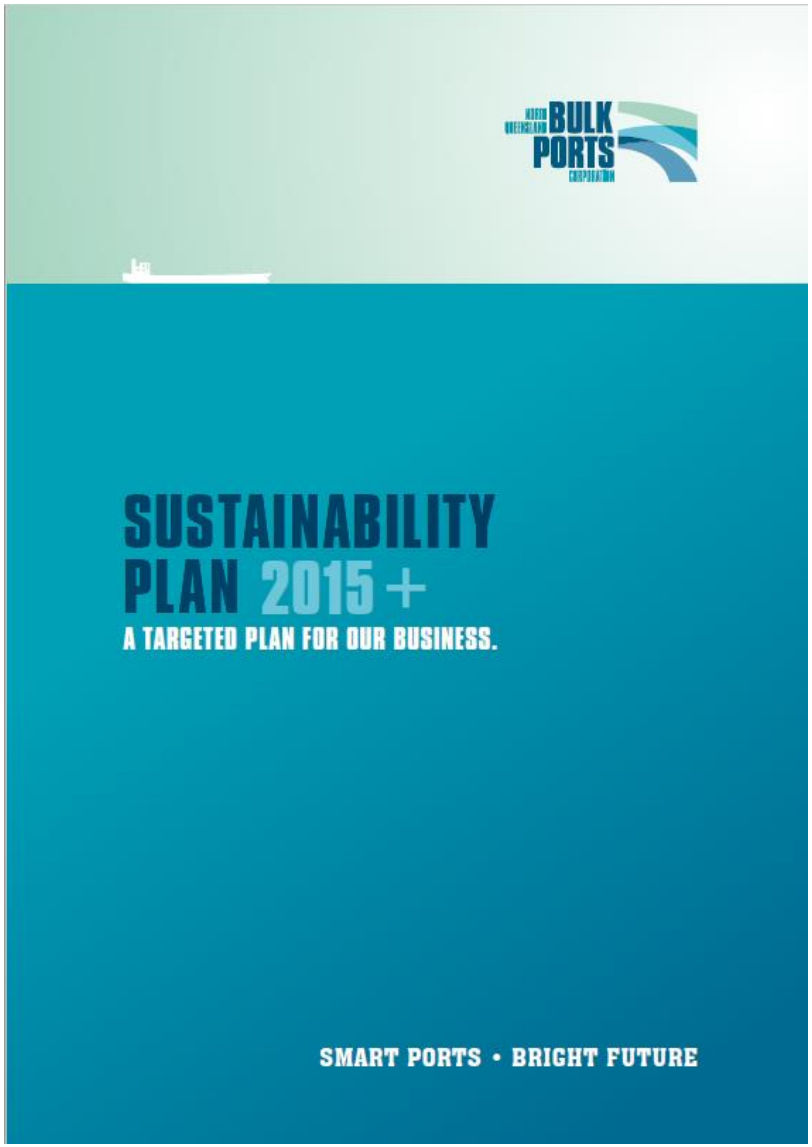
NQBP Specific

Environmental monitoring program captures ambient & can be scaled up for projects. Robust & well thought out program. Significant data set on seagrass, coral and water quality.

- As we are recognised experts through EcoPorts program, we have a seat at the table /technical input into regional partnerships (MWHR2RP). Help design regional monitoring programs and broader reef programs.
- RIMRep (Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting) – broader reef wide scale, integrated monitoring.
- NQBP is a key partner along with researchers (JCU, AIMS, CSIRO), government departments (GBRMPA, EHP), other industry (agriculture, tourism) and NGO (WWF, AMCS).


SUSTAINABLE PORTS
Economic Prosperity
Social Responsibility
Environmental Quality

Sue Pillans ©

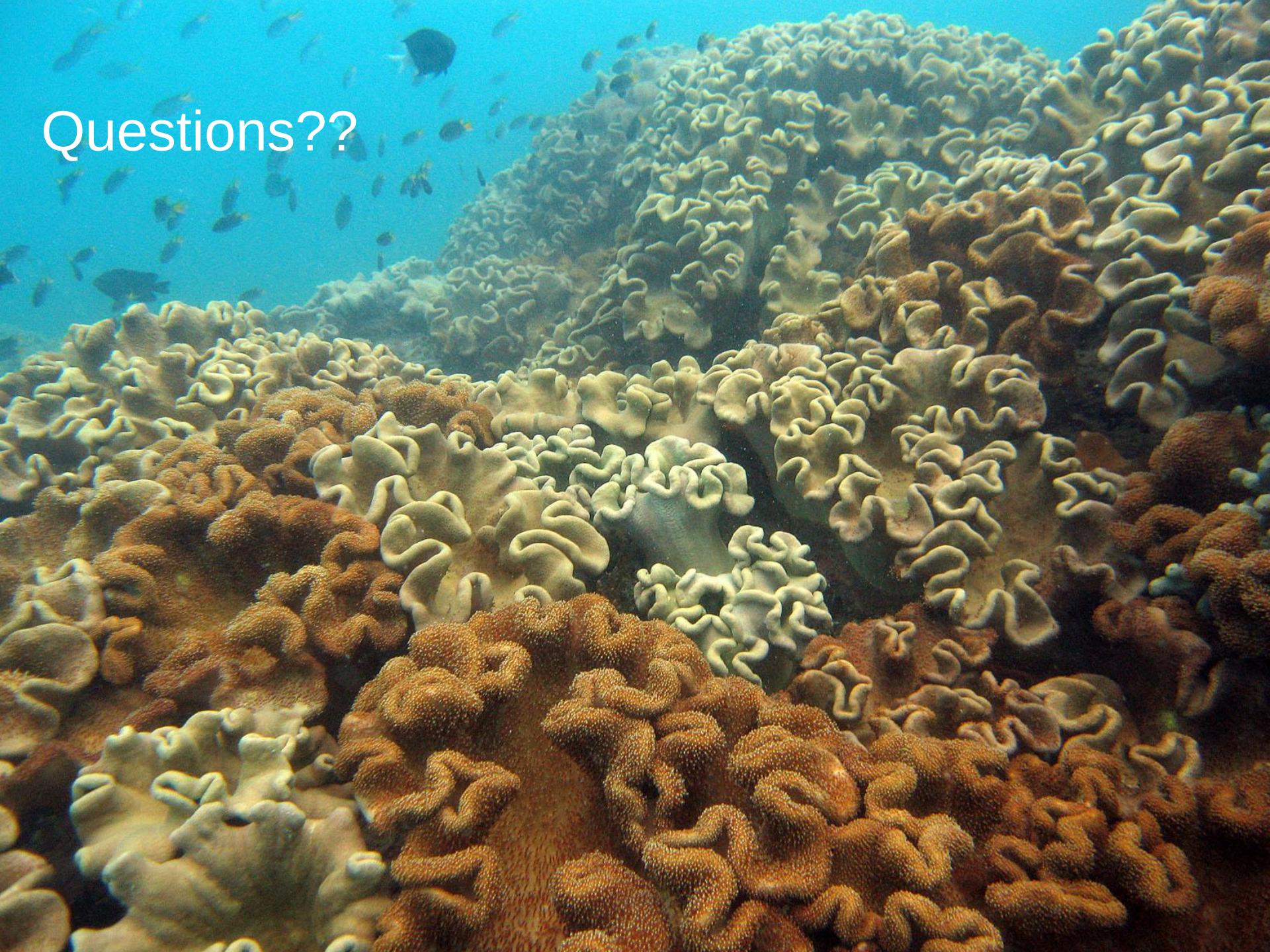


Demonstrates strong action and alignment with Government policy direction:

- Reef 2050
- Queensland's *Sustainable Port Development Bill, 2015*
- Improved efficiencies and strong commitment to *'sustainable operations'* at key port nodes along the GBR coast

In Closing

- Avoidance and minimisation of impacts is a priority consideration in ocean planning.
- Proactive, communication with stakeholders is imperative.
- Ocean planning must be informed by rigorous and recognised science.
- Policy and decisions must balance the science, community views and economic needs.
- NQBP will continue to:
  - Demonstrate strong environmental and sustainability credentials;
  - Lead efforts to demonstrate that port activities have and can continue to occur adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.


Questions??