



ACS

Australian Coastal Society Ltd

PO Box 65, Flinders University, Bedford Park SA 5041

21 August 2014

Dr Russell Reichelt
Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Authority
Townsville, Queensland 4801

Dear Russell

Re: 4 Corners Program on the Great Barrier Reef

The Executive Committee of the Australian Coastal Society (ACS) has asked me to write to you expressing its concern over the recent ABC '4 Corners' story on the Great Barrier Reef.

While there will often be a divergence of views between scientists and administrators, the opinions of internationally recognised coral reef scientists such as Charlie Veron cannot be dismissed lightly. His comments on the program about the approval for the mass dumping of dredge spoil from Abbott Point was that *the decision has to be a political decision, it is not supported by science at all*. He went on to say *I was absolutely flabbergasted when I heard of that decision*.

I realise that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority would have to consider many issues in making the final decision which you said on the '4 Corners Program' *at the end, a decision was made taking all that into account that the disposal could occur safely*.

The ACS would like an answer to the following questions;

- 1) Was a comprehensive hydrodynamic sediment study done for the dredge spoil site to model sediment dispersal from the disposal site, along with sediment plume modelling over space and time together with sediment depositional locations, sediment composition and potential impacts of these on flora and fauna?
- 2) If so, is this study available?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Harvey', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR NICK HARVEY
President, Australian Coastal Society Ltd