

Mr R Doyle
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Mr Doyle

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2002 forwarding a copy of a petition tabled in the Parliament on 27 November 2002 regarding the Mackay Harbour and dredging material.

The Mackay Port Authority (MPA) has identified part of the wetlands area as suitable for industrial development in the Draft 1999 Seaport Land Use Plan. This plan does not propose filling of the floodway which drains the wetlands and surrounding areas. Approval of this plan rests with the Minister for Transport.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognises that much of the seaport land to the west of Slade Point Road has biodiversity conservation values. The EPA is continuing to provide advice to the MPA on the conservation values of the port lands and possible amendments to the Plan in order to maximise the protection of conservation areas while allowing for further development of the port.

The EPA has no current application for capital dredging of the Mackay Harbour. Dredge spoil from maintenance dredging by the MPA is currently disposed of at sea.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

DEAN WELLS
Minister for Environment