



MBMP Draft Zoning Plan
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 15155
City East Qld 4002

Thursday, 6 March 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

We make the following submission to the review of the **Moreton Bay Zoning Plan**.

Please find attached submission material and supporting documentation. We also make the following general comments.

- The proposed Moreton Bay Zoning Plan provides little protection to Moreton Bay's wealth generating natural assets. See appendix A. Providing greater protection to these natural assets ensures infinitum revenue generating opportunities. At least 30% of these key habitat types should be under full protection (Green Zone).
- Recreational fishing and boating has a significant negative impact upon the health of Moreton Bay and its biodiversity. See appendix B. The Zoning Plan must reduce this impact. We strongly recommend boating numbers and traffic be controlled. Endless growth in boating activity and supporting infrastructure will destroy many of the natural, social and economic values found in or derived from Moreton Bay.
- Seagrass meadows particularly those found on the Moreton and Amity Banks and in the Southern Moreton Bay region are poorly protected. There are very significant seagrass meadows found in the Southern Moreton Bay region and used heavily by dugongs and turtles. See appendix C. Dugongs particularly use these seagrass meadows during Lyngbya events on the Moreton Banks and Amity banks.

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- Marine animals are poorly protected. There is inadequate protection provided to dugongs, turtles and dolphins. There are few safe havens provided so these species can avoid human impacts or at least find areas where human impacts are minimized. The Marine Mouse, *Xeromys myoides*, listed as vulnerable is almost totally forgotten about in this Plan. We suggest greater habitat protection must be provided for this species, its habitat is well described. See appendix D.
- Wader birds are offered very little protection, particularly little protection is provided for high tide roost sites. See appendix D. We have an International, National and Regional obligation to protect migratory wader birds. Current management strategies are ineffective. Wader roost sites require more substantial protection from disturbance as roost sites are critical to the species survival. A network of highly protected roost sites is required for the long term survival of local and migratory wader birds.
- There should be no collection of marine species on or in any green zone. The Aquarium trade must not be provided access to Green Zones or areas such as Flinders Reef and Flat Rock. This form of activity compromises the principles of the marine park and undermines biodiversity protection.

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