



Cairns and Far North Environment Centre Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

26 May 2003

IS THE STATE SERIOUS ABOUT PROTECTION OF MARINE PARKS?

Submissions to the Environmental Protection Agency closed today in relation to an application by the developers OF THE Earl Hill South canal estate for a permit to dredge in the Marlin Coast Marine Park. The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) is continuing the call for the State Government to uphold its responsibility to protect this marine park by refusing to allow the dredging to occur.

“CAFNEC representatives have met twice over the past few weeks with representatives of the developer to discuss various aspects of the proposed canal estate.” said John Rainbird, CAFNEC coordinator. “However, we are not convinced that dredging in the estuarine conservation zone and the general use zone of this marine park will not have unacceptable impacts on the natural condition and integrity of this sensitive and important area”

“CAFNEC is also concerned about impacts on public amenity that may result from a large channel being carved through the beach at Half Moon Bay and from the potential for estuarine crocodiles to move more freely into the neighbouring developed areas if the canal estate goes ahead” stated Mr. Rainbird.

The serious potential environmental impacts of dry land canal estates and dredging in sensitive marine environments are well recognised, as outlined by the State Coastal Management Plan, the draft Wet Tropics Regional Coastal Management Plan and Queensland Fisheries policy. “What is the point of a marine park if not to protect the area from activities such as this?” asked Mr. Rainbird

For further information contact John Rainbird, Coordinator CAFNEC on 40321 746 or 0408 113 281.

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