



28 February 2014

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IN THIS BULLETIN

NEWS	1
Fight for the Reef Gets Support (Australia)	1
Seed-filled buoys may help restore diverse sea meadows in San Francisco Bay (CA, USA)	2
Hunt defends Reef dump approval (Australia)	2
Rangers' network in Cape York region saves turtles (QLD, Australia)	2
Septic tanks not bad after all? May not be lagoon's 'smoking gun' (FL, USA)	3
Seagrass: the Renaissance meadow of the ocean (FL, USA)	3
Save the Dugong, too! (Japan)	3
Seagrass restoration could reverse marine biodiversity decline (United Kingdom)	4
Council in bid to avoid \$52m plant repair bill (QLD, Australia)	4
Green group challenges sand dump permit near Great Barrier Reef (Australia)	4
Soft drink giant throws money into sugar industry (Australia)	4
Taxpayers, farmers slugged for run-off (Australia)	5
Porirua Harbour habitats at risk (New Zealand)	5
Lyme Bay covered by new marine habitat bylaw (United Kingdom)	5
Wyong wrack removal in full swing (WA, Australia)	6
We wanted inland dumping, says reef authority (Australia)	6
Australia claims 'substantial' progress on reef protection amid dumping complaints (Australia)	6
What would we do without our wetlands? (QLD, Australia)	7
CONFERENCES	7
The 11th International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW11) (China, 7-10 November 2014)	7
SEAGRASS-WATCH on YouTube	7
...seagrass matters blog	8
World Seagrass Association blog http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/	8
FROM HQ	8
Past E-bulletins	8
Frequently Asked Questions	8
Seagrass-Watch Magazine	8
Seagrass-Watch Shop	8
Virtual Herbarium	8
Giveaways	8
Future sampling dates	8
Handy Seagrass Links	8

Please note: links to sources were active on date of publication. Some sources remove links periodically.

NEWS

Fight for the Reef Gets Support (Australia)

27 February 2014, Dredging Today

The Fight for the Reef campaign welcomed the start of people-power-fuelled legal action to stop three million cubic metres of Abbot Point dredge spoil being dumped in Reef waters.

In Brisbane, the North Queensland Conservation Council lodged the action in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal challenging the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's decision to issue a dumping permit. "This is a legal challenge born of the concern Australians feel about the Reef being treated like a dump," said Great Barrier Reef Campaign Director with AMCS Felicity Wishart. "Thousands of everyday Australians have financed this challenge – they've made it possible. "We are seeing people power at work.

"From the start we have said dumping dredge spoil in Reef waters is just too damaging because the plumes can be carried for up to 80 kilometres, smothering coral and sea grass. "Australians were not prepared to just sit back and let the Reef, which is already in a weakened state, be put at further risk," Ms Wishart said.

WWF Great Barrier Reef Campaigner Richard Leck said the fight to stop the dumping had become the biggest environmental issue in Australia.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Seed-filled buoys may help restore diverse sea meadows in San Francisco Bay (CA, USA)

21 February 2014, *Science Codex*

A pearl net filled with seedpods, tethered by a rope anchored in the coastal mud but swaying with the tide, could be an especially effective way to restore disappearing marine meadows of eelgrass, according to a new study. The resulting crop of eelgrass grown by SF State researchers is as genetically diverse as the natural eelgrass beds from which the seeds were harvested, said Sarah Cohen, an associate professor of biology at the Romberg Tiburon Center. As eelgrass meadows are threatened by a number of human activities, restoration plans that maintain diversity are more likely to succeed, she noted.

Eelgrass restoration projects are challenging because it's not easy to plant seedlings under the water, and seeds scattered over a large area could be washed away from the restoration site. Instead, RTC researchers tested the Buoy Deployed Seeding (BuDS) restoration technique. They first harvested eelgrass seedpods from several eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay, then suspended the pods within floating nets over experimental tanks (called mesocosms) supplied with Bay water and with or without sediment from the original eelgrass areas. As the seeds inside each pod ripened, a few at a time, they dropped out of the nets and began to grow within the tanks.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

related articles:

<http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1113077873/seed-filled-buoys-restore-marine-meadows-in-san-francisco-bay-022214/>

http://www.sciencecodex.com/seedfilled_buoys_may_help_restore_diverse_sea_meadows_in_san_francisco_bay-128413

Hunt defends Reef dump approval (Australia)

18 February 2014, *The Australian*

Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt says plans to expand Abbot Point were "99 per cent done" when he inherited the project from Labor. Last year, the minister approved the dumping of three million cubic metres of dredged spoil within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to expand the port near Bowen. Environmentalists have argued the project will damage marine life and turn the reef into a shipping super-highway.

Mr Hunt says dumping the dredge spoils on land was ruled out by his predecessor because there was a wetland near the port. It would also have created an acid sulphate problem on land due to the sediment's make-up, he said. Mr Hunt said he had independently assessed whether land dumping was an option, but was given the same advice. The Australian Marine Conservation Society's Felicity Wishart says Mr Hunt's comments are "extraordinary". Ms Wishart says Queensland has been dealing with acid sulphate for 25 years and neutralising the acid was "quite manageable".

The Abbot Point expansion is a crucial step in the development of \$28.4 billion of coal reserves in the Galilee Basin. The Australian Marine Conservation Society says results of a recent online poll, carried out by Essential Research, shows most Australians don't support the Abbot Point expansion. Two thirds of the 1017 people surveyed said they disapproved with the decision to allow the expansion to go ahead. About 17 per cent were in favour.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Rangers' network in Cape York region saves turtles (QLD, Australia)

17 February 2014, *The Cairns Post*

Aboriginal rangers from Napranum, near Weipa, have saved 42 turtles from a slow death, west of Cape York. The Nanum Wungthim rangers rescued the turtles trapped in ghost nets during two patrols of Pennefather Beach north of Weipa between the Pennefather River to the north and Pine River to the south.

Nanum Wungthim ranger co-ordinator and environmental scientist Matt Gillis said sea turtles were facing a challenge to survive. Mr Gillis said seas in the Gulf of Carpentaria were whipped up from a storm surge as a result of cyclone Dylan coinciding with big tides, increasing the chances of turtles washing up on beaches. The endangered and vulnerable Olive Ridley, Hawks Bill, Green and Flat-back turtles were found in ghost nets from foreign fishing trawlers and washed in with the above-3m tides.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Septic tanks not bad after all? May not be lagoon's 'smoking gun' (FL, USA)

13 February 2014, Florida Today

Septic tanks may not be as big a villain in the Indian River Lagoon's demise as previously thought, according to a Florida Tech scientist. But liquid fertilizers, yard runoff, muck, manatees, raccoons and other wildlife could be inflicting a much more significant toll. Tom Belanger, an environmental scientist at Florida Tech, studies how nutrients flow from septic tank drainfields to nearby waters. There is conflicting science on the scope of septic tanks' role in the lagoon's pollution problems. Research by Belanger and his colleagues at Florida Tech found properly functioning tanks probably aren't as significant a source of nitrogen, phosphorus and fecal coliform bacteria as many had previously thought. Belanger finds plumes of septic tank nutrients travel slowly: 1-3 feet a year. Other studies in Florida have found higher rates. Tracer studies in the Keys have shown nitrogen-rich effluent can flow from septic tank systems to coastal waters in just hours. Belanger's studies included 16 sampling sites along the lagoon. He looked at properly functioning tanks. "Failing systems are another story," Belanger said.

Estimates for septic tanks in Brevard, range from about 80,000 to as high as 150,000. Assuming a 10 percent failure rate, that could mean 8,000 to 15,000 failing septic tanks in Brevard. A recent county funded study found 60 percent or more of the nutrients making their way into some segments of the lagoon may be coming from groundwater — which septic tanks can contaminate. Researchers at FAU-Harbor Branch find nitrogen in similar forms in the lagoon's seaweed as seen in places with proven pollution from septic tanks or sewage, such as Roberts Bay in Sarasota.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Seagrass: the Renaissance meadow of the ocean (FL, USA)

12 February 2014, DigiNews

In March 2007 former Florida Governor Charlie Christ designated the month as Seagrass Awareness month in the state. One may ask why this measure was taken, what seagrass is and why we are writing about it now.

In Florida seagrasses are vital to the ecology of waters for which the state's multimillion-dollar recreational and commercial fishing industry depends. Damage by vessel groundings, propeller scars, anchors dragging, dredging and runoff are wiping out seagrasses at an alarming rate. The threats to seagrass and the potential it has to help us mitigate climate change and ocean acidification are too vast to ignore.

A solution found in seagrass that most people have already heard of but haven't applied to the ocean is encouraging payments to support the take up and storage of carbon by conserving seagrass meadows. Such carbon sequestration in the ocean, otherwise known as blue carbon, offsets a carbon footprint through the protection and restoration of seagrass meadows, and is a natural and effective way to combat global climate change. By bringing awareness to the problems facing this vital resource we can help create an understanding out the ways in which seagrass supports us ecologically and economically and inspire change.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Save the Dugong, too! (Japan)

11 February 2014, The Okinawa Times

The dugong, which has been designated a "National Monument" by Japan, lives in the ocean surrounding Okinawa prefecture. The main island of Okinawa is at the northern end of the dugong's habitat range. The Japanese Ministry of the Environment considered the dugong as being at extreme risk of extinction and placed it in the "Endangered Species IA Class". In 2001, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment announced that a three-year survey confirmed a total of 12 Okinawan dugongs. At the time of revisions to the Red List (of Japanese endangered species) in 2007, it was estimated that 50 or fewer Okinawan dugongs were alive. Experts, however, have pointed out that the "possible population [for Okinawan dugongs] is ten or fewer".

Dugongs have frequently been sighted at Henoko, the land area chosen to be the site for relocation of Futenma Air Station. An environmental impact assessment conducted by the Japanese Ministry of Defense for the proposed station relocation confirmed the presence of three dugongs. The Ministry claims it will "be able to preserve [the dugong] through environment protection measures" even after going ahead with the landfill project for the station. However, dugongs clearly feed in the ocean off Henoko and in adjacent Oura Bay. Japanese environmental groups are strongly opposed to the offshore landfill project at Henoko because it will decimate seagrass beds which substance for dugongs. Also the sea routes for transporting landfill material will encroach on their migratory path.

Environmental groups in both the U.S. and Japan brought the "Okinawan Dugong" case to the U.S. Federal Court in San Francisco under the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) in 2008. The court ruled that the dugong must be protected by the NHPA and that the base construction clearly violated that law. It also ordered the Department of Defense, as a responsible party, to address the protection of dugongs. From another perspective, it appears the Okinawans are the dugongs of Japan and need immediate help to survive.

[more..... http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html](http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html)

Seagrass restoration could reverse marine biodiversity decline (United Kingdom)

11 February 2014, *World Fishing*

Researchers at Swansea University are developing a means of restoring endangered seagrass meadows in the UK by growing mats of these marine plants to replace previously damaged habitat. Divers at Swansea University last summer collected seed containing fruits of the seagrass *Zostera marina* at Helford River (Cornwall) and Torbay. The seeds were then separated once dropped and have now begun to germinate in aquaria facilities at the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research (CSAR). Seagrass scientists working within the SEACAMS project are now developing a means of growing the hundreds of germinating seedlings into seagrass mats that can be readily deployed into the marine environment for habitat restoration.

Project leader Dr Richard Unsworth said that restoring seagrass can be really important for fisheries productivity as these habitats provide critically important nursery habitat for a range of commercially important fish species such as cod, pollock and whiting. The research team will be conducting trial deployments of these seagrass mats in summer 2014. A series of different methods will be examined in order to determine the most effective methods to enable future large scale restoration projects.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Council in bid to avoid \$52m plant repair bill (QLD, Australia)

04 February 2014, *Townsville Bulletin*

The quality of wastewater being pumped into the sea off Townsville could be lowered in a bid to save ratepayers millions of dollars upgrading the troubled Cleveland Bay treatment plant. Townsville City Council is trying to renegotiate restrictions governing the quality of wastewater it is able to pump into the sea to reduce the expected \$52 million cost of upgrading the plant. Townsville councillors denied the move would adversely affect the Great Barrier Reef saying farming run-off, industrial users such as Yabulu's nickel refinery and proposed dredging as part of the Abbott Point expansion posed a far greater risk.

Last year it was revealed that ratepayers would have to fund another \$52 million in repairs for the wastewater treatment plant despite it receiving a major upgrade between 2006 and 2008. Townsville City Council, Mayor Jenny Hill said less stringent water guidelines could reduce the cost of the repairs by millions of dollars. "The biggest source of nutrient run off on the Great Barrier Reef is from farming and not from local governments," she said.

Deputy Mayor Vern Veitch said water quality in Cleveland Bay was good and any change in the condition of the licence could save ratepayers substantially. "Cleveland Bay is one of the best recovering areas among any of the developed areas of the Queensland coast," he said. "The water quality is quite good and even seagrass beds are recovering well.

more..... <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/news.html>

Green group challenges sand dump permit near Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

27 February 2014, by Sonali Paul, Reuters

Environmentalists launched an appeal on Thursday to overturn a permit granted for an Australian coal port to dump millions of cubic metres of sand near the Great Barrier Reef, arguing it fails to protect the World Heritage site.

An independent agency charged with protecting the reef granted a permit in January for 3 million cubic metres of soil dredged up at the port of Abbot Point to be dumped about 25 km (15 miles) from the reef. The North Queensland Conservation Council filed a challenge to the permit at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Brisbane on Thursday.

The port is being expanded for \$16 billion worth of coal projects planned in the untapped Galilee Basin by two Indian firms, Adani Enterprises and GVK, and Australian billionaire Gina Rinehart.

source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/27/australia-reef-challenge-idUKS9N0L001N20140227>

related articles:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/court-threat-on-reef-dumping/story-fn59niix-1226828772402#>

Soft drink giant throws money into sugar industry (Australia)

24 February 2014, *ABC Rural*

An unlikely partnership between a global food and beverage giant, environmental groups, the Federal Government and the sugar industry is helping Queensland's cane farmers clean up their environmental footprint. The Coca-Cola Foundation has invested more than \$2.7 million into Project Catalyst, a program supported by the World Wildlife Fund, which is aimed at protecting the Great Barrier Reef. The program supports farmers to reduce nutrient and fertiliser run-off. It was to end this year, but is now guaranteed to continue for at least for the next twelve months.

Natural Resource Management group, Reef Catchments, was a pivotal player in creating the program. CEO Rob Cocco says it's becoming increasingly important for the sugar industry to prove it's sustainable. Mr Cocco says with over 70 growers involved in the program, and the innovations spreading, the industry is reducing the impact older farming practices have on reef health.

Proserpine cane farmer Lou Raiteri has been involved in the project from the start. He says it's helping make very obvious changes on his farm. "We've done control traffic with the GPS and shielded sprays, so our herbicides are applied more efficiently. "I'm now in the process of zonal tillage, which allows the centres of the rows to not be worked to any degree and helps erosion and soil health." Mr Raiteri says it's a great partnership between all groups involved and it's spreading throughout the broader industry.

Full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-24/project-catalyst-improves-sugar-sustainability/5279858>

Taxpayers, farmers slugged for run-off (Australia)

13 February 2014, by Graham Lloyd, The Australian

Taxpayers and farmers are spending \$200 a tonne to stop sediment run-off into waters near the Great Barrier Reef, a new paper has found.

This equates to a billion-dollar subsidy for the planned expansion of the Abbot Point coal terminal, which planned to dump five million tonnes of dredge spoil into waters near the Whitsunday Islands in Queensland, according to James Cook University water quality scientist Jon Brodie.

source: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/taxpayers-farmers-slugged-for-run-off/story-fn59niix-1226825167550#>

Porirua Harbour habitats at risk (New Zealand)

11 February 2014, voxy.co.nz

The results of a recent survey show sediment entering the harbour continues to be a problem in Porirua Harbour. The latest five-yearly survey of Porirua Harbour intertidal habitats has shown that the area of estuary covered in freshly deposited mud has increased substantially, particularly near the Kakaho and Horokiri streams.

Soft mud reduces the water clarity, the amount of oxygen in the sediment, and the growth of vital seagrass. This results in a loss of habitat, reduces recreational and aesthetic values and the estuary's ability to function effectively. The density of seaweed growth near the mouths of the Porirua, Pauatahanui and Horokiri streams is evidence that nutrient inputs (nitrogen and phosphorus) remain high. Seaweed mats can smother sediment and seagrass. When the seaweed dies it starves the sediment of oxygen and causes black smelly mud.

The Regional Council commissioned the second broad scale habitat mapping survey of the intertidal area to assess the changes in key estuary habitats (eg, saltmarsh and seagrass) and substrate (e.g. areas of mud and sand). The information has been gathered as part of the Regional Council's State of the Environment Monitoring requirements under the Resource Management Act. Information from the report will feed into the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan's sediment reduction and estuary restoration work and help focus policy and management decisions related to land-based activities.

Full story: <http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/porirua-harbour-habitats-risk/5/181144>

Lyme Bay covered by new marine habitat bylaw (United Kingdom)

08 February 2014, Bridport and Lyme Regis News

New bylaws to protect marine habitats including Lyme Bay have been welcomed as 'some of the best conservation management' in the area. The bylaws were introduced by the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) which covers 25 per cent of coastal waters off Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Bottom Towed Fishing Gear bylaw manages trawling and dredging and the Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds applies to bait collectors and hand gatherers working in seagrass beds.

Lyme Bay, pockets of Poole Harbour with areas of seagrass and Studland to Portland are among the area covered by the new bylaws, which carry maximum court fines for contravention of £50,000, although warnings and fixed penalties can be issued by the IFCA. The European Marine Sites cover sensitive reefs which are home to slow growing sea fan corals, while the Whitley Lake seagrass stabilises the seabed as well as being the habitat of seahorses, pipefish and nursery grounds for a number of commercial fish species.

Full story: http://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/10992051.Lyme_Bay_covered_by_new_marine_habitat_bylaw/

related articles:

*http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/10985153.Bylaws_to_protect_marine_life_are_welcomed/
http://www.viewfrompublishing.co.uk/news_view/30366/1/1/weymouth-new-byelaws-protecting-seabed-habitats
http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/10987909.Fishing_ban_will_protect_reef_and_seagrass/*

Wyong wrack removal in full swing (WA, Australia)

05 February 2014, Lakes Mail

Dead seagrass will be removed from Budgewoi Lake and Lake Munmorah in the coming weeks as Wyong Shire Council's weed harvester shifts into overdrive. The council has been lauded by locals and visitors for its wrack removal at Canton Beach, in Tuggerah Lake. The sandy lake bed is again far more noticeable – and enticing – at the popular beach.

Since August, a total of 730 tonnes of wrack was removed from the lake and taken to Buttonderry Waste Management Facility. Last year, the council removed 5800 cubic metres of wrack from the shore zone next to recreational areas which would otherwise have decomposed in the lake, affecting water quality and contributing to the formation of organic black ooze. The council would increase the wrack harvesting locations and volume during 2014.

Full story: <http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/2067763/wyong-wrack-removal-in-full-swing/?cs=750>

We wanted inland dumping, says reef authority (Australia)

06 February 2014, Sydney Morning Herald

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority would prefer if dredge spoil wasn't dumped within park boundaries, but says it doesn't have the power to enforce its view. However, the authority has assured the dumping of three million cubic metres of spoil in the park won't harm the world icon.

The GBRMPA last week approved North Queensland Bulk Port's application to dump up to three million cubic metres of sludge in the marine park, after the federal environment minister gave the project the green light. GBRMPA chairman Dr Russell Reichelt says the authority failed to persuade NQBP to dump the dredge inland and it can't legally force it to. However, he said land dumping was difficult given the port was surrounded by valuable wetland and bird habitats. But the authority was satisfied with the offshore dumping plan.

The approved dumping site is about 25km east-northeast of the port and about 20km from the nearest reef. The spoil, about 70 per cent sand and 30 per cent silt and clay, would become part of the moving billion of tonnes of natural sediment in the ocean within a year of disposal, Dr Reichelt said. He said detailed scientific studies determined the dumping would have no adverse impacts on the reef.

Full story: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/we-wanted-inland-dumping-says-reef-authority-20140206-323g7.html#ixzz2sWIE4uTW>

related articles:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-06/graeme-kelleher-on-barrier-reef-dredge-dumping/5243972>

http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/25488?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+SBGeneralNews+%28SustainableBusiness.com+General+News%29

<http://phys.org/news/2014-02-fume-great-barrier-reef-dumping.html>

<http://grist.org/news/great-barrier-reef-will-be-smothered-with-silt-because-coal/>

<http://guardianlv.com/2014/02/great-barrier-reef-park-dumping-proposal-passed/>

<http://www.tottenhamnews.org/sci-tech-3/mud-dump-in-great-barrier-reef-park-could-choke-life-3059.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/25/dumping-dredge-spoil-near-reef-cheaper>

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/hunt-defends-reef-dump-approval/story-fn3dxiwe-1226830606537>

<http://www.tourism-review.com/environmental-threat-for-the-great-barrier-reef-news4013>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-06/graeme-kelleher-on-barrier-reef-dredge-dumping/5243972>

<http://www.whitsundaytimes.com.au/news/gbrmpa-approves-dredge-spoil-to-be-dumped-inside-m/2161035/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/we-wanted-inland-dumping-says-reef-authority-20140206-323g7.html>

Australia claims 'substantial' progress on reef protection amid dumping complaints (Australia)

03 February 2014, AFP

Australia said it had made "substantial" progress on UNESCO benchmarks for protection of the Great Barrier Reef in a report aimed at staving off a world heritage downgrade. Environment Minister Greg Hunt said a progress report delivered to the world heritage committee "demonstrates unequivocally the government's commitment to better managing and protecting this natural wonder." UNESCO has warned that without action on rampant coastal development and water quality the reef — which covers an area roughly the size of Italy or Japan — will be declared "World Heritage in Danger" in June.

Hunt released Canberra's latest state party report on the reef Sunday which he said showed significant progress was being made to address UNESCO's concerns. This was despite the government in December approving a massive coal port expansion in the region and the reef's governing body — which is under investigation for its links to mining companies — green-lighting the dumping of up to 3 million cubic meters of dredge waste within its waters. Conservationists have warned it could hasten the demise of the reef, which is already considered to be in "poor"

health, with dredging smothering corals and seagrasses and exposing them to poisons and elevated levels of nutrients.

According to the report for UNESCO, Australia was taking steps to bolster the reef's resilience to the major threats of extreme weather events and climate change which it said "cannot be managed directly." On port development, it said no projects "have been approved outside the existing and long-established major port areas within or adjoining" the reef. "In addition, no developments that would have an unacceptable impact on the outstanding universal value of the property have been approved," it said. "Australia does not consider that the (reef) warrants inclusion on the list of World Heritage in Danger," the report added.

Full story: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/life/environment/2014/02/03/399712/Australia-claims.htm>

related articles:

<http://www.warwickdailynews.com.au/news/senate-orders-abbott-to-make-barrier-reef-submissi/2169391/>

What would we do without our wetlands? (QLD, Australia)

03 February 2014, Gympie Times

Our Great Sandy Strait was celebrated on World Wetlands Day in Hervey Bay on Sunday. Environmental enthusiasts gathered at the Fraser Coast Discovery Sphere, where the day's theme was What Would we do Without our Wetlands?

The family friendly day out was a Fraser Coast Opportunities and Burnett Mary Regional Group collaboration. Fraser Coast Mayor Gerard O'Connell said the Fraser Coast was a precious and special place. "We need to preserve the environment but allow for growth," Cr O'Connell said. FCO general manager David Spear said local iconic species, such as dugongs, marine turtles and even humpback whales, relied on the Great Sandy Strait for their survival.

source: <http://www.gympietimes.com.au/news/what-would-we-do/2157715/>

CONFERENCES

The 11th International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW11) (China, 7-10 November 2014)

Declining seagrasses in a changing world.

The International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW) gives a good chance for the scientists working on various aspects of seagrass ecosystems to come together and discuss their latest achievements. The ISBW11 will be held from 7-10 November 2014 at Sanya city, Hainan Province, China, organized by South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. ISBW11 convenor is Dr Xiaoping Haung.

The following symposia themes were chosen for ISBW11:

- 1) Key Ecological Processes;
- 2) Ecosystem Vulnerability and Resilience;
- 3) Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
- 4) Management and Restoration.

Important dates:

- 22 March 2014 - Opening of registration on the web site
- 30 May 2014 - Opening of online payment
- 30 May 2014 - Beginning of hotel reservation
- 10 August 2014 - The last day of abstract submission
- 01 September 2014 - End of early bird payment
- 25 September 2014 - Notification of abstract acceptance
- 15 October 2014 - End of online payment
- 25 October 2014 - Notification of final list of participants to the ISBW11
- 07 November 2014 - ISBW11 begins

for more information, visit <http://isbw11.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>

SEAGRASS-WATCH on YouTube

Seagrass: Pastures of the sea <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66Y5vgswj20> or

<http://www.seagrasswatch.org/seagrass.html>

Presentation on what seagrasses are and why they are important (over 32,249 views to date)

...seagrass matters blog

World Seagrass Association blog <http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/>

Keep up to date on what's happening around the world from the WSA with regular updates from WSA President Dr Giuseppe Di Carlo and *notes from the field* by Siti Yaakub.

FROM HQ

Past E-bulletins <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/publications.html#ebulletin>

Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/faq.html>

Seagrass-Watch Magazine <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/magazine.html>

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