

CAIRNS SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Supplementary Report

Appendix I: Biotropica Report – Habitat Values



Cairns Shipping Development Project
Latham Snipe at Tingira Street, Cairns

Report No: FLA17.10.01
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Author/s:	Jeff Middleton & Sarah Holt

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BIOTROPICA Australia Pty Ltd
 PO Box 866
 MALANDA QLD 4885
 Telephone: (07) 4095 1116
 Facsimile: (07) 4095 1296
 Email: info@biotropica.com.au
 Web: www.biotropica.com.au



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Table of Contents

<u>1.0</u>	<u>BACKGROUND</u>	<u>1</u>
1.1	SITE HISTORY	1
1.2	PROPOSED WORKS	2
1.3	TINGIRA STREET PROPOSED END USE	2
1.4	CURRENT APPROVALS	2
1.5	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	4
<u>2.0</u>	<u>BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>LATHAM’S SNIPE (<i>GALLINAGO HARDWICKII</i>)</u>	<u>5</u>
3.1	POPULATION SIZE	5
3.2	THREATS	6
3.3	MOVEMENTS	6
3.4	HABITAT	6
3.5	DISTRIBUTION	6
<u>4.0</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT OF ‘IMPORTANT’ HABITAT</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>5.0</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>6.0</u>	<u>MITIGATION</u>	<u>8</u>
6.1	SPATIAL MITIGATION	8
6.2	TEMPORAL MITIGATION	8
6.3	HABITAT RESTORATION	8
<u>7.0</u>	<u>CONCLUSION</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>8.0</u>	<u>REFERENCES</u>	<u>10</u>

APPENDIX 1: EPBC DECISION NOTICE - CUBF	13
APPENDIX 2: BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION	14
APPENDIX 3 – DISTRIBUTION MAP	22

List of Tables

TABLE 1: BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA RECORDS OF <i>G. HARDWICKII</i> AT THE TINGIRA STREET SITE.....	4
TABLE 2: ALA RECORDS SURROUNDING THE TINGIRA STREET SITE.....	7

List of Figures

FIGURE 1: PROPOSED DMPA AREAS AT TINGIRA STREET	1
FIGURE 2: EXTRACT OF ARUP REPORT SHOWING CUBF PROJECT AREA	3

1.0 BACKGROUND

The objective of the Cairns Shipping Development Project (CSDP) is to accommodate larger cruise ships and a potential expansion of HMAS Cairns Navy Base through widening and deepening of the Cairns Shipping Channel and improvement of navigation and wharf facilities. Stiff clay dredge material is to be transported to and placed on previously reclaimed Ports North land at Tingira Street, Portsmouth (Lot 27 on SP218291) as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Proposed DMPA areas at Tingira Street (shaded orange)

1.1 Site History

Prior to 1982 the Tingira Street site was dominated by a mangrove/wetland community. In 1982, development and environmental approvals were granted for a bund to be constructed around the portion of the site west of the present Tingira Street alignment. After construction of the bund some mangroves were cleared and about 0.5m of dredged material from Commercial Fisherman's Base No 2 was hydraulically placed within the bunded area.

In the late 1980's the remainder of the site was cleared of mangroves and imported quarry fill was placed to form and surcharge the proposed alignment of Tingira Street and the area of the proposed Harbours and Marine Base. Excess material from the surcharge was later used as fill in adjacent areas of the site.

From the early 1990's the Cairns Port Authority began to accept small amounts of soil and pavement materials at the site from the Cairns City Council and building contractors. The Port Authority is also understood to have entered into agreements with several demolition contractors to accept demolition waste (e.g. concrete rubble and soils). The majority of filling at the site is understood to have occurred between 1994 and 1996.

From around 2008 various parts of the site were surcharged, with some areas subsequently being developed, and the balance of the area being mown on a regular basis to maintain access to the site in preparation for future sequential ground preparation to meet development demand for port purposes consistent with the Cairns Seaport Land Use Plan approved under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

1.2 Proposed works

The stiff clay is proposed to be transported to the Tingira St site using a barge. The clay will be transferred to one of the two sites using heavy machinery and shaped into the final landform. Due to the stiff formation of the clays, a large bund wall is not required onsite, however a buffer distance of approximately 20m, and an erosion and sediment control fence will be maintained between the working Dredge Material Placement Area (DMPA) and the surrounding mangrove vegetation.

1.3 Tingira Street proposed end use

The placed stiff clay will be used to fill and preload the site. At the completion of the placement from the CSDP, Ports North then intends to import additional fill in the near future and construct industrial hardstands and other port related infrastructure. These developments at Tingira Street have been planned and in progress for many years and most of the necessary approvals have already been obtained. Of relevance to the consideration of terrestrial ecological impacts is the fact that once the CSDP material is placed, no rehabilitation is proposed following the stiff clay placement. The larger shaded area in Figure 1 is reclaimed and above HAT, and for the smaller shaded area, the additional height of the final landform, together with the domed surface will prevent the regeneration of any tidally influenced existing vegetation.

1.4 Current approvals

An application for a Common Use Barge Facility (CUBF) was submitted based on ecological assessments completed by GHD in 2012 (GHD, 2012). The area for the proposed development (as submitted in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act application)) is shown in Figure 2.

The proposed development of the CUBF was referred to the Federal government under the *EPBC Act* for consideration of potential impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES) listed flora within remnant vegetation areas of the proposed barge ramp footprint. The decision was that the proposed works was **NOT** a controlled action under the EPBC Act (refer Appendix 1).

To date, work on the CUBF project has not commenced.



Figure 2: Extract of ARUP report showing CUBF project area (red outline, noting proposed ramp extending into Smiths Creek).

1.5 Impact Assessment

In 2017 Biotropica Australia were commissioned to complete a terrestrial ecology of the Tingira Street site to inform the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RD-EIS) for the CSDP. A site walkover and a bird survey were completed in March 2017.

As a result of the site walkover assessment, the western section of the site (as shown in Figure 1) is described as a highly disturbed anthropogenic grassland. Exotic species e.g., para grass (*Urochloa mutica*), Guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus var. maximus*) and navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) dominate. Native species are rare and are confined to the eastern boundary which borders the remnant mangrove vegetation. The topography is relatively flat with the exception of some low-lying areas to the south and east where recent rainfall had created swampy areas, which were inundated at the time of survey. It was considered that the wet areas were solely due to heavy rain in the days preceding the survey and that they would be transient in nature. A repeat survey in the dry season would confirm if the wet areas recorded are an artefact of recent rain, or whether they are more permanent.

Bird surveys were completed by an experienced bird specialist on a total of six occasions (23/24th March 2017 and 30/31st March 2017) on both sections of the Tingira Street study area. Forty-six bird species were recorded during the surveys, including Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) within the grassland site. The surveyor recorded *G. hardwickii* during each survey of the grassland area at the Tingira Street site. A maximum of 13 different individuals of *G. hardwickii* were recorded on the site during a survey completed on 30th March 2017.

The presence of 13 individuals of *G. hardwickii* on site does not trigger the definition of a 'nationally important site' for this species (as described in Section 4). As the highly disturbed Tingira Street site is unlikely to have any qualities not found in greater extent and better quality at nearby sites, it was concluded that any birds displaced by the CSDP were likely to relocate to nearby suitable habitats including East Trinity, the Esplanade or one of the many other areas of vegetation adjacent to water within the Cairns area. The impact of the proposed use of the Tingira Street site as a DMPA on *G. hardwickii* which did not reach the 'significant' threshold number under the EPBC Act, was considered to be a medium risk.

2.0 BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION

As a result of the public consultation period associated with the Revised Draft EIS for the CSDP, a submission was received from Birdlife Australia (refer Appendix 2). The submission included records of *G. hardwickii* sightings at the Tingira Street site as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Birdlife Australia records of *G. hardwickii* at the Tingira Street site.

Start Date	Number of Observers	Start Time	Survey Type	Duration (mins)	Number of Individuals Observed	Recorder	Sighting Notes
7/04/2015	1	6:10:00	Incidental search	90	6	John Pearson	
9/04/2015	1	6:30:00	500m area search	90	4	Norton Gill	

Start Date	Number of Observers	Start Time	Survey Type	Duration (mins)	Number of Individuals Observed	Recorder	Sighting Notes
7/04/2015	1		Incidental search	45	11	David Anderson	With John Pearson
18/04/2015	1		Incidental search	90	4	Robert Hamilton	
8/04/2017	1	8:26:00	2ha, 20 minute search	20	21	Phillipa Cannon	
13/02/2016	1	9:00:00	500m area search	90	1	Judith Friesen	
22/03/2017	1	9:15:00	500m area search	60	7	Judith Friesen	
30/03/2017	1	16:15:00	5km area search	120	18	Judith Friesen	
31/03/2017	1	17:00:00	5km area search	55	31	Judith Friesen	26 individuals and 31 total in the count. Distance was 3.0km
1/04/2017	1	7:25:00	5km area search	60	32	Judith Friesen	18 from the first paddock opposite the salt marsh. A total of 53 snipe counted minus doubled counts. Best estimate 32 individuals

The methods used to obtain the above records are not known. It is unclear whether a standard and recognized methodology was used, with an attempt to account for duplicate records of the same individual. One of the bird surveys completed on behalf of Biotropica Australia was completed on 30th and 31st March – the same dates as the two of the results shown above (highlighted). On these same dates and at the same location, the Biotropica commissioned survey recorded a maximum of 13 separate individuals, as opposed to Birdlife Australia recording 18 and 31 individuals. In addition, Atlas of Living Australia shows 49 records from Birdlife Australia at the Tingira Street site on the 08/04/2017, whilst in the submission (refer Table 1); only 21 individuals were reported on the same date. The accuracy of the records therefore cannot be verified

3.0 LATHAM'S SNIPE (*GALLINAGO HARDWICKII*)

3.1 Population Size

The entire global population of Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) is thought to migrate to Australia (Smith, 1990; Watkins, 1993). The size of the Latham's Snipe population that visits Australia is estimated at 30 000 birds (Hansen *et al.*, 2016). Previous population estimates have ranged from 15 000 breeding birds (Garnett & Crowley, 2000) to 37 000 breeding birds (Naarding, 1986). The actual population size is difficult to estimate, and is poorly known.

3.2 Threats

The current major threat to the species appears to be the ongoing loss of habitat. The wetland habitats occupied by Latham's Snipe are threatened by a variety of processes including drainage, diversion of water for storage or agriculture, development of land for urban or other purposes, and land management practices such as mowing of habitat during summer can render it unsuitable for several months (Frith *et al.*, 1977; Garnett & Crowley, 2000; Naarding, 1981; Naarding, 1985; Weston, 1995).

3.3 Movements

Latham's Snipe depart their breeding grounds from July to November (Higgins & Davies, 1996; Naarding 1985) and arrive in northern Australia from July to November (Frith *et al.*, 1977; Higgins & Davies, 1996). They then move slowly southward, passing along the coastline and through regions near the coast (Frith *et al.*, 1977; Storr, 1984).

Most snipe depart the non-breeding areas in south-eastern Australia by late February or early March (Frith *et al.* 1977; Naarding, 1982; Naarding, 1983). They travel north along the coasts of New South Wales and Queensland (Storr, 1984), and **pass through Queensland from February to April** (most birds depart northern Queensland by mid-April) (Bravery, 1964; Gill, 1970; Frith *et al.*, 1977). They arrive in Japan in April (Naarding, 1984; Naarding, 1985; Wolfe, 1954) and in Russia in April and May (Higgins & Davies, 1996).

3.4 Habitat

Latham's Snipe are seen in small groups or singly in freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover. They are found in any vegetation around wetlands, in sedges, grasses, lignum, reeds and rushes and also in saltmarsh and creek edges on migration. They also use crops and pasture (BA, 2017).

3.5 Distribution

In Australia, Latham's Snipe occurs in a single, dispersed non-breeding population (Garnett & Crowley 2000). The species has been recorded along the east coast of Australia from Cape York Peninsula through to south-eastern South Australia (including the Adelaide plains and Mount Lofty Ranges, and the Eyre Peninsula). The range extends inland over the eastern tablelands in south-eastern Queensland (and occasionally from Rockhampton in the north), and to west of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales (Barrett *et al.*, 2003; Blakers *et al.*, 1984; Frith *et al.* 1977). The species is widespread in Tasmania (Barrett *et al.* 2003; Naarding, 1983; Thomas, 1979) and is found in all regions of Victoria except for the north-west (Barrett *et al.*, 2003; Blakers *et al.*, 1984; Emison *et al.*, 1987). Most birds spend the non-breeding period at sites located south of the Richmond River in New South Wales (Frith *et al.*, 1977).

In the Cairns region, the species has been recorded at numerous widely dispersed localities along the coast and up to 50km inland (ALA, 2017) (refer Appendix 3). Clusters of records can be seen associated with Cairns waterfront, Cattana Wetlands, Hasties Swamp National Park and Lake Tinaroo. A search of ALA data was completed for a 5km and a 10km radius from the Tingira Street site. Table 2 shows that Tingira Street had the most records of the Cairns locations, with the Cairns esplanade and Edmonton Turf Farm also having frequent records. The data is taken from the Atlas of Living Australia database and the survey methods used and the issue of recording duplicates cannot be verified.

Table 2: ALA records for sightings of *G. hardwickii* at locations surrounding the Tingira Street site (1983-2017)

Number of times that <i>G. hardwickii</i> have been recorded on site	5km radius	10km radius from Tingira Street
Tingira Street	18	18
Cairns Esplanade	9	14
Edmonton Turf Farm	N/A	6
Cairns Airport	N/A	4
Cairns Croc Farm	N/A	2
Cairns Cemetery	1	1
East Trinity	1	1
Cairns Botanical Gardens	N/A	1
“Cairns”	1	1
Total	30	48

Of the above locations within 10km of the Tingira Street site that are known to be used by *G. hardwickii*, only Tingira Street has one or more unverified records of 18 or more individuals in the location at one time. The importance of this threshold of 18 individuals is discussed in Section 4.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ‘IMPORTANT’ HABITAT

In 2015 the Federal Government released EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 “Industry guidelines for avoiding, assessing and mitigating impacts on EPBC Act listed migratory shorebird species”. The policy statement is designed to assist in avoiding, assessing and mitigating significant impacts on migratory shorebirds listed under the EPBC Act. It covers 37 migratory shore-bird species, 36 of which breed in the northern hemisphere and migrate to the non-breeding grounds of Australia along the East Asian – Australasian flyway.

Under the EPBC Act, ‘important habitat’ is a key concept for migratory species. Important habitats in Australia for migratory shorebirds under the EPBC Act include those recognised as nationally or internationally important. Within the EPBC guidelines, important habitat for *G. hardwickii* is described as:

- areas that have previously been identified as internationally important for the species, OR
- areas that support at least 18 individuals of the species.

Based on an assessment of ALA records between 1983-2017; the Tingira Street site showed four records of 18 or more individuals of *G. hardwickii* on the site. It should be noted that all of these four records were dated between 30th March and 8th April 2017. Two of these records are on dates that the bird survey by Biotropica Australia did not record the threshold number of individuals. There were no other records that met or exceeded the threshold of 18 individuals on the Tingira Street site in any prior year.

All other records at the other sites showed the number of individuals recorded was less than the threshold of 18.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The Tingira Street site is a very small area of habitat for this species (approx. 26.2ha). A search of the ALA database shows that there are eight other locations with suitable habitat within 10km of Tingira Street that have recorded *G. hardwickii*. The records do not indicate whether a survey using standard methodology was used, or whether the records are incidental observations. It is possible that the species may occur in higher numbers on these sites should a full survey be conducted. Without knowing the full distribution and use of the sites within the Cairns region, the relative importance of the Tingira Street site cannot be fully established.

6.0 MITIGATION

6.1 Spatial mitigation

Spatial mitigation would be achieved by avoiding the sections of the Tingira Street site that are used by *G. hardwickii*, and only depositing the stiff clay material on those sections that are not used by the species. However, due to the lack of detailed survey, the use of the Tingira Street site by *G. hardwickii* is poorly understood. It is not known exactly which areas of, and which microhabitats within the site are used by the species. It is not known whether the site is used as foraging or roosting habitat, or potentially both. There may be some areas of the site that are not used by the birds. Further surveys would be required to establish the preferential use of the habitat on site by *G. hardwickii*.

6.2 Temporal mitigation

All of the records of *G. hardwickii* at Tingira Street were recorded between February and April. Any works on the site should occur outside of this timeframe to minimise the impact on the species. It is noted that the dredging campaign is scheduled to be conducted in the period May to September.

6.3 Habitat restoration

It is unlikely that *G. hardwickii* will be able to utilise the deposited stiff clays at Tingira Street due to the height and exposure of the surface, together with the domed shape. It may be possible to create an additional area of suitable habitat for the species close to the Tingira Street site. A literature review shows that the species can utilise a range of habitats that provide dense cover adjacent to a waterbody, and that they also use grasslands and crops as cover (BA, 2017).

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Tingira Street site is a man-made and highly disturbed site in an industrial area of Cairns. A current EPBC approval exists for the development of part of the Tingira Street study area for a Common Use Barge Facility. This proposed development was not a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

An ecological assessment of the site by Biotropica Australia in 2017 showed that the site did not meet the required criteria to be considered an 'important habitat' for *G. hardwickii* under the EPBC Act. However as a result of the public consultation of the revised draft EIS for the CSDP, a submission was made by Birdlife Australia stating that the 'important habitat' criteria of the presence of 18 *G. hardwickii* individuals had been reached.

The records provided by a Biotropica Australia commissioned bird specialist and the records from Birdlife Australia for the number of *G. hardwickii* present at Tingira Street on the same day are not consistent.

In the absence of further standardised studies to document the use of the Tingira Street site in relation the habitat available in the surrounding area (such as Cairns Esplanade or other vegetation adjacent to water in the broader area), the importance of the Tingira Street site cannot be established. When the use of the site is better known, mitigation measures can be recommended.

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APPENDIX 1: EPBC DECISION NOTICE - CUBF

	
Australian Government Department of the Environment	
Notification of	
REFERRAL DECISION – not controlled action	
Development of a Common User Barge Facility, Cairns, Queensland (EPBC 2013/6981)	
This decision is made under Section 75 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act).	
Proposed action	
person named in the referral	Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited ACN: 131 836 014
proposed action	To develop a common user barge facility in Cairns, Queensland, as described in the referral received by the department on 29 August 2013 [see EPBC Act 2013/6981].
Referral decision: Not a controlled action	
status of proposed action	The proposed action is not a controlled action.
Person authorised to make decision	
Name and position	Deb Callister Assistant Secretary Queensland and South Australia Assessment Branch
signature	
date of decision	11 October 2013

APPENDIX 2: BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION

Project Manager – Cairns Shipping Development Project
 Coordinated Project Delivery Division
 Office of the Coordinator-General
 PO Box 15517
 City East, Qld 4002

Via: CairnsSDP@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au

25 August 2017

EIS Submission re-Cairns Shipping Development Project for Trinity Inlet

(includes Figure 1 and two photographs at the end of the text + one Excel spreadsheet attachment showing Latham's Snipe sightings at Tingira St)

Tingira Street has been chosen as the site for the dumping of the stiff clay portion of dredge spoil for the Cairns Shipping Development Project. This is 10%, or 100,000 cubic metres, of the proposed 1m Cu M total proposed for the Trinity Inlet dredging. The remaining 90% is proposed to go to Northern Sands Barron Delta Voids north of Cairns. This submission will only deal with the 10% Tingira St component.

Introduction

Tingira Street site is a well-known location amongst birdwatchers both locally and internationally. An impressive 111 species of bird have been recorded there including 22 migratory and resident shorebirds. It is a reliable site to observe certain species of difficult to find birds, such as Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), Beach Stone-curlew (*Esacus magnirostris*) and rare birds like Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

Tingira St contains two distinct habitats which both need careful consideration for their conservation value, cultural and community value, and aesthetics. **One habitat is the salt marsh at Number 6 in the Figure 1. Numbers 1-5 are grassland areas of value.**

Numbered areas 5 and 6 in yellow are the areas currently proposed for dredge spoil dumping in the Draft EIS.

A. Grassland areas (Numbered 1-5 in Figure 1)

Page B8-36 of the EIS states that there is no essential habitat at the Tingira St site. This is false. Latham's Snipe is found in all areas adjacent to Trinity Inlet and the current barge ramp.

Surveys conducted by the contracted surveyor and by Birdlife Australia in March 2017 revealed a significant number of Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) i.e. over 18 in the wet grassland. On one occasion 56 were counted. (See Attachment, *Latham's Snipe, Tingira St*). This finding warrants a review of essential habitat. See also bird list:

<http://bird.org.au/ebird/subs/air/pubs/birdlife/air/conservation/Code-72510955&v=air&u=>

Latham's snipe is a migratory shorebird listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1981/6.htm).

It is of great importance to preserve wetlands that may regularly support substantial numbers of Latham's Snipe. Little is known about its habits and population and further study is warranted.

Latham's Snipe breed in northern Japan in the Japanese spring. They make their annual migration to Australia flying 9000 kilometres, non-stop, along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway taken by migratory birds. Some fly as far as Tasmania to spend their non-breeding season (September to April). Snipes preferred habitat in Australia is wet grassland, often in residential, industrial and semi-industrial areas. Snipe roost in the grass during the day and become active at night when they undertake the bulk of their feeding. They are very shy and scare easily on approach, bursting from their roost to fly to another spot 50m or so away. These stopover sites are sometimes referred to as staging sites. The count data collected to date suggest that Tingira Street, within the development proposal area, is one such site. It is critical that the snipe replenish their energy reserves during the staging phase, where disturbance should be negligible. The availability of suitable staging sites is essential to the snipe's subsequent successful breeding season and survival.

Solution

Further surveys need to be conducted to establish the potential of the site as essential habitat for Latham's Snipe as per the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement.

Conduct surveys:

- From September to April, with emphasis on the northward migration staging period; February to the end of March.
- Do this over several consecutive of years to establish relative population size over time (as usage of sites may change from year-to-year depending on climate conditions).
- Investigate surrounding areas to determine if alternative sites for displaced birds exist, in the event of further development.

We have an opportunity to conserve at least part of significant coastal wet grassland in the Cairns area. It is a unique site of national and international importance.

A large area of wet grassland was cleared recently to allow for construction of a storage facility for wind turbines on Tingira St. This has significantly reduced the area suitable for snipe and other bird species. The area around the wind turbine storage area is still viable habitat for snipe (see areas numbered 1, 2 and 3 marked in red in Figure 1.)

Should the stiff clay dumping go ahead at this section of Tingira St, it is proposed that three areas be preserved and or rehabilitated (see Numbers 1 and 2 in red, Figure 1)

- 1. The area in red closest to Trinity Inlet from the new wind turbine holding area (Number 1)**

2. The area in red adjacent to Chinaman Creek from the wind turbine area (Number 2)
3. Rehabilitation of the wind turbine site with suitable grasses/sedges after its tenure is over

If the designated yellow rectangular area (Number 5 in Figure 1) becomes full, then expand the area a little, adjacent to the wind turbine area (Number 3). Retain Numbers 1 and 2, as much as possible, as snipe habitat.

In addition, although it is outside the parameters of this submission, we would strongly argue for the protection of the red square (Number 4) grassland opposite the salt marsh (Number 6) towards the end of Tingira St. Latham's Snipe are often sighted there.

In any case, any works must be conducted outside the Latham's Snipe migration period (September to April) to minimise disturbance to roosting snipe.

B. Salt Marsh (Numbered 6 in Figure 1)

This site is adjacent to the existing barge ramp in the smaller yellow demarcated plot (Number 6 in yellow in Figure 1)

This may be the last remnant coastal wetland in inner city Cairns. It should be preserved for a number of reasons.

- **Bird Habitat**

Although the number of migratory and resident shorebirds is variable, the ones present are significant for their rarity. Over 22 species of migratory and resident shorebirds have been recorded here including: Beach Stone-curlew, Ruff, Red-kneed Dotterel and Latham's Snipe (<http://bird.org.au/australia/journals/lettinggo/Cole-12540255&sr=rl1&sr=1>). Numbers of species of wader greater than 15 are of significance to conservation (EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21- Significant Impact Guidelines for 36 Migratory Shorebird Species page 10- 11).

Beach Stone-curlews, which are listed as Vulnerable in Queensland under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, also nest here with a pair currently sitting on eggs (late August 2017).

- **Accessibility**

There is easy accessibility by the Cairns' community of a unique ecosystem. Local and international birdwatchers use this site to see the Beach Stone-curlew and rare birds such as the Ruff.

- **Aesthetics**

A large mound of stiff clay dredge spoil is unsightly. At present the site is weed infested only because soil was dumped there. With a little effort the site could be restored as a visitor attraction.

Solution

This site shouldn't be used as a dump site for dredge spoil just because it is close to the existing barge ramp. If the proposal goes ahead, it would make sense – given the quantity of 100,000 cubic metres of stiff clay proposed - to first fill the demarcated larger rectangular area in yellow (Number 5) beyond the wind turbine area. If the designated rectangular area becomes full then expand the area a little adjacent to the wind turbine site rather than dump on the marshy wetland in the smaller yellow square (Number 6, Figure 1). Every effort should be made to protect this important area of remnant salt marsh.

Thank you for your scrutiny of our submission and we look forward to a substantive response to our proposed recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Jude Friesen, Birdlife Australia, PO Box 165N, North Cairns, Qld 4870

Jude Friesen

Denis Walls, Birdlife Australia and President, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, PO Box 323N, North Cairns, Qld 4870

Denis Walls

Prof. Peter Valentine, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science, James Cook University and Conservation Officer, Birdlife, Northern Queensland, PO Box 629, Malanda, Qld 4885

Peter Valentine

Dr Golo Maurer, Key Biodiversity Area Program Manager Birdlife Australia, North Australia Office, Cairns, Qld 4870

Golo Maurer

Dr Birgita Hansen, Research Fellow, Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation, Federation University Australia, Ballarat, Victoria 3353

Birgita Hansen



Figure 1: Aerial image of Tingira St showing proposed dredge spoil dumping sites (yellow) and grassland areas that should be set aside for protection (red). Note that the salt marsh area number 6, in yellow, is considered important remnant salt marsh and should also be protected.

Photo 1 – Beach Stone-curlew at Tingira St salt marsh (Number 6 in Figure 1)



Photo 2 – Latham's Snipe



Survey ID	Survey P	Survey P	Latitude	Longitude	Accuracy	Number	Survey Notes	Start Date	Start Time	Finish Date	Survey Type	Duration	Program	Source	User ID	User Name	Vetting S	Species	Common	Sighting	Breeding	Sighting	S
959273	343167	Cairns Crocodile Farm	-17.01	145.8	500	2		13/02/2002	8:45:00	13/02/2002	500m area search	115	General Birdata	Atlas Record Forms	2847	Chris Hassell	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe			None		
2E+06	562529	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77		1		7/04/2015	6:10:00	7/04/2015	Incidental search	90	General Birdata	eBird	7378	John Pearson	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		6	None		
2E+06	564121	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77		1	Weather overcast with showers passing through.	9/04/2015	6:30:00	9/04/2015	500m area search	90	General Birdata	eBird	7246	Norton Gill	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		4	None		
2E+06	580259	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	100	1	With John Pearson looking for Latham's Snipe found by John this morning.	7/04/2015		7/04/2015	Incidental search	45	General Birdata	eBird	7356	David Anderson	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		11	None		
2E+06	602943	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77		1	Nicely timed between showers and well worth the wet feet.	18/04/2015		18/04/2015	Incidental search	90	General Birdata	eBird	7293	Robert Hamilton	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		4	None		
2E+06	650943	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	4	1		8/04/2017	8:26:00	8/04/2017	2ha, 20 minute search	20	General Birdata	Birdata	9316	Phillipa Cannon	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		21	None		
2E+06	652322	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	500	1		13/02/2016	9:00:00	13/02/2016	500m area search	90	General Birdata	Birdata	7642	Judith Friesen	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		1	None		
2E+06	652322	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	500	1	2.4kms	22/03/2017	9:15:00	22/03/2017	500m area search	60	General Birdata	Birdata	7642	Judith Friesen	Unvetted	168 Latham's Snipe		7	None		
2E+06	652322	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	500	1	2.0 kms	30/03/2017	16:15:00	30/03/2017	5km area search	120	General Birdata	Birdata	7642	Judith Friesen	Unvetted	168 Latham's Snipe		18	None		
2E+06	652322	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	500	1	Distance was 3.0km	31/03/2017	17:00:00	31/03/2017	5km area search	55	General Birdata	Birdata	7642	Judith Friesen	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		26	None	*	
2E+06	652322	Tingira Street, Portsmith, Cairns	-16.95	145.77	500	1	2.5km	1/04/2017	7:25:00	1/04/2017	5km area search	60	General Birdata	Birdata	7642	Judith Friesen	Within range	168 Latham's Snipe		32	None	**	

* 26 individuals and 31 total in the count.
 ** 18 from the first paddock opposite the salt marsh. A total of 53 snipe counted minus doubled counts. Best estimate 32 individuals

APPENDIX 3 – DISTRIBUTION MAP

