

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY United Nations Proposal	Proposal # 4
	Proposed by Australia
Authors: Madison Patrick, Madison Carroll, Madison Beam, Emaley Russell	Committee: H Action on Proposal ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
School: West Carter HS	
City: Olive Hill	

1 An act to prohibit the dumping of dredge spoil in the waters directly surrounding the Great Barrier Reef Park.

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3 **Be it hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the United Nations**

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5 Justification Clause: Currently the Great Barrier Reef of Australia is not on the "In Danger" list of World Heritage
6 Conservation because of recent proactive measures. However, since being removed from this list, The Australian federal
7 government has approved a proposal to dump three million cubic meters of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Park.
8 The dredged material will come from the proposed expansion of the coal port at Abbot Point, south of Townsville on the
9 Queensland coast. Dredge Spoil is the technical name given to dredged sand, mud, minerals, toxic chemicals, coal toxins,
10 and heavy metals. Conserving the Reef's biodiversity is not just desirable - it is essential.

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12 Section 1- The Great Barrier Reef is a diverse ecosystem stretching 2,300 kilometers (1,429 miles) along the
13 Queensland coast of Australia. The reef is the largest living structure on the planet. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
14 is 345,000 square kilometers in size and home to thousands of species of coral, fish, mollusks, jellyfish, sharks and
15 whales. It is also visible from space. Legislation has recently been approved by the Australian government to dump 3
16 million cubic meters of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The proposal gained final approval by the
17 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and is subject to "strict conditions." At this time, however, these "strict
18 conditions" have not been elaborated on by the Australian federal government.

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20 Section 2- Dredge spoil can cause major environmental issues such as, but not limited to: water contamination, marine
21 sedimentary contamination (sediments necessary for the growth/health of underwater animals/plants), release of toxins
22 into the water, and overall marine ecosystem disturbance. The current punishment for dumping of dredge spoil is a
23 maximum of one year in jail. Punishment, in stipulation with this proposal, would increase the maximum jail time years
24 to three. This increase is in correlation with the damaging effects the dredge spoil is having on the Great Barrier Reef
25 environment.

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27 Section 3- The recently passed legislation giving permission for dredge spoil dumping has created an air of controversy
28 within the political proceedings of Australia's appointed government leaders. As such, The United Nations Environment
29 Programme, an international institution that coordinates United Nations environmental activities, will be required to
30 take environmental and legal action concerning the wellbeing of The Great Barrier Reef and its inhabitants. The United
31 Nations Environment Programme will in no way be infringing on the jurisdiction held by the Australian government, but
32 rather serve as mediators between both sides of the controversial issue. Furthermore, The United Nations Environment
33 Programme will form a team of scientific researchers, at their discretion, to study the possible adverse effects the
34 dredge soil may have on The Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, and how this may in turn affect marine ecosystems globally.
35 This team will also consist of researchers from The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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37 Section 4- The variety of life along the Reef's vast expanse is immense. The Reef's extraordinary biodiversity and the
38 interconnectedness of species and habitats make the Great Barrier Reef and surrounding areas one of the most
39 complex natural systems on Earth. Maintaining a healthy and diverse Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is important so it is
40 better able to withstand, recover and adapt to impacts and stress. Furthermore, contamination of the reef can lead to a
41 decline in Australia's number one commodity, tourism. The decline in tourism for Australia puts other counties imports
42 at risk. Also, the diversity of the species present in The Great Barrier Reef places the balance of the marine ecosystem
43 at risk, as our oceans are ultimately connected.

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45 Section 5- Upon passage, this proposal will immediately go into effect.