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Dear Guy

*Ref: Review of monitoring report for ex HMAS Adelaide dive site*

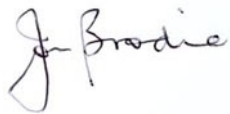
**Review of report “Ex-HMAS Adelaide Artificial Reef: Review of Ecological Monitoring Two years Post-Scuttling” prepared for NSW DPI Catchments and Lands, September, 2013**

**Review by Jon Brodie, Principal Research Scientist, Centre for Tropical Water & Aquatic Ecosystem Research, James Cook University, Townsville, December, 2013.**

I have read the report carefully and have listed my comments and recommendations below.

1. The report/review is very well written with no significant flaws.
2. While not in any way the responsibility of Cardno it was a pity more standard analytical methods and indicator organisms were not used throughout the monitoring programs. Some inability to compare results across time due to varying methodology, as pointed out by Cardno, reduces the power of the monitoring program to draw robust conclusions. I agree with Cardno that in future monitoring consistent methods be used.
3. I am in agreement with Cardno’s conclusions that no elevated concentrations of toxic metals and no adverse effects of the presence of the ship have been shown to occur in benthic sediments or sentinel organisms. In addition there is no evidence that any unusual or undesirable effects have been detected in the development of the fouling community.
4. Given the results of the analysis of the monitoring results I am in agreement with Cardno’s recommendations for the future of the monitoring program i.e.
  - a. A reduction from quarterly to biannual frequency for the reef community monitoring.
  - b. Continuation of the pest species monitoring.
  - c. A reduction from annual to once every 3 – 5 years for the bioaccumulation monitoring and a shift in species to an ascidian already present in the community. The only potential flaw in this change is if the chosen ascidian (or other organism) is no longer present in the reef community. These considerations need to be examined in the proposed methodology design proposed by Cardno.
  - d. Sediment sampling is repeated at 60 months post scuttling.
  - e. Sediment sampling from within the hull is discontinued.

5. Given the results in the Cardno report I believe the recommendations for future monitoring are still conservative. Further reviews of the program could conclude that monitoring be reduced even further given the apparent lack of any real impacts on the surrounding environment from the placement of the ship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Brodie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

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