

Environment Impact Statement (EIS)

FOR DUPLICATION OF THE GATCOMBE AND GOLDING CUTTING CHANNELS

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) is undertaking an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed duplication of Gatcombe and Golding Cutting Channels. This duplication is part of the Port's 50 Year Strategic Plan which identifies significant growth in trade, and as a result shipping traffic, to and from the Port.

Background information around the need for this EIS was provided to the community through a fact sheet dated December 2014. This is available on the GPC website.

Proposed channel duplication

The duplicate channels are proposed to run parallel to the existing 14km Gatcombe and Golding Cutting Channels. The current channels are approximately 16.1m deep and 183m wide.

Duplication of the channels involves deepening and realigning the existing channels to a depth of approximately 16.1m and a width of 200m, removing around 14million cubic metres of dredge seabed material, including the dredger access channel and dredged material transfer location. The duplication would require a capital dredging program to take place.

The duplication of the channel will enable the channel to facilitate the two-way passage of vessels.

There is no immediate requirement for dredging of the Gatcombe and Golding Cutting channels, however due to the long lead-in time required for pre-dredging tasks, including environmental baseline data collection, impact assessment, government approval processes, detailed design and dredge contractor procurement, we believe it is necessary to undertake the preparation of the Channel Duplication Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now to ensure we are prepared for when the dredging is required.

What is Dredging?

Dredging involves the digging, excavating or removal of material from waterways to deepen channels, create harbours and maintain navigation channels and approaches to ports, to allow the safe passage of vessels. Dredging can either be capital

dredging associated with new navigation channels or maintenance dredging that is necessary to maintain existing and approved seafloor profiles.

What is Capital Dredging?

Capital dredging is an essential part of port operation and is required to create new, or to improve existing, navigation channels for a vessel to safely pass through the area. Capital dredging at Queensland ports is regulated by a comprehensive regulatory approval system at both the Commonwealth and State Government levels.

What is Maintenance Dredging?

Maintenance dredging involves dredging carried out for the purposes of removing sediments that have accumulated in the existing navigation channels to maintain an existing approved capital dredging seafloor profile. Like Capital dredging, maintenance dredging is also regulated by a comprehensive regulatory approval system at both the Commonwealth and State Government levels.



EIS Process

The proposed Gatcombe and Golding Cutting Channel Duplication Project has been declared a "Coordinated Project" by the Queensland Coordinator-General under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. The Queensland Government issued the EIS Terms of Reference for the project in December 2012.

The project was also determined to be a "controlled action" requiring an EIS by the Commonwealth Environment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

An EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is a document prepared to describe the potential impacts of a proposed activity on the environment. An EIS describes the impacts, and documents ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate potential negative impacts of a project.

EIS Update

Progress to date

Some of the foundation activity for the EIS has commenced. This has included;

- The identification of the Dredged Material Placement Location
- Baseline monitoring of water quality, flora and fauna, marine ecology, air quality and seagrass
- Geochemical and geotechnical investigations
- Cultural heritage survey and anthropological assessment
- Dredging methodologies analysed and most feasible method(s) identified
- Hydrodynamic modelling including plume studies.

Upcoming activity

Additional geochemical investigations for the dredger approach channel and dredged material transfer location will be finalised in early 2018 with baseline data gathering continuing through the first part of the year. Data collected will be analysed to assess key impacts on water quality and marine and estuarine ecology. The data will also be modelled on the Port Curtis hydrodynamic model using a super computer over several weeks in early 2018 to identify a range of scenarios and the related impacts to ensure

all possible impacts are identified and mitigation measures developed.

Community and stakeholder consultation will be a key focus in 2018. Early engagement during the preparation of the EIS and the associated statutory EIS engagement period will seek feedback on the concept design for the reclamation options and will also seek to develop solutions to specific project interests.

EIS timing

It is anticipated that the draft EIS will be completed by May 2018. This will be made available to the community for review and submission according to the statutory engagement requirements directed by the Federal and Queensland Government. Details of

opportunities to review and submit comments on the draft EIS will be provided on the GPC website and will be supported by newspaper advertising.



Community Engagement

Stakeholder Representative Group

To ensure the EIS addresses all community, environmental and channel user interests, GPC is forming a Stakeholder Representative Group in advance of the completion of the draft EIS and statutory consultation period to seek inputs direct from interested groups and individuals. The aim of the group will be to gain a shared understanding of the project requirements, identify issues and opportunities for further investigation and discussion, and to work collaboratively to identify measures to address these or enhance the project.

The group will aim to represent the full range of interests relevant to the project. This will ensure a well-rounded and informed EIS and also to create a shared understanding across all areas of stakeholder interest. One representative of each of the following interests will be on this group:

- Environment
- Marine Conservation
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreational Fishing
- Local business/commercial
- Indigenous cultural heritage
- Facing Island community
- Gladstone community.

It is expected that at least three meetings will be held between January and March 2018, with the group possibly continuing to support other future GPC capital works projects and reconvened as required over the life of this project.

Community involvement

Opportunities for community input into the development of the EIS will also be provided between January and March, prior to completion of the draft. Engagement sessions will be held to provide the opportunity for interested community members to ask questions and provide input into the EIS. These sessions will be advertised through local media and on the GPC website.

For further information

If you have any questions about this project, please contact GPC's Corporate & Community Relations team via corporate&communityrelations@gpcl.com.au.

Updates will also be provided on the GPC website, gpcl.com.au

If you would like to receive regular updates on this project, please contact the email address above to request to be added to our project mailing list.

