

Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project

Annual Compliance Report of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 2009/4904

December 2020

For the attention of: Department of the Agriculture, Water and Environment

eDOC NO: 1662624



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1	02/12/2020	Final	AS	KL/AB	Craig Walker
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Table of Abbreviations

Descriptor	Description
ACR	Annual Compliance Report
ASSMP	Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan
BPAR	Benthic Photosynthetically Active Radiation
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Strategy
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CG	Coordinator General
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry now Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture Water and Environment
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DMP	Dredge Management Plan
DTRP	Dredge Technical Reference Panel
DAWE	Department of the Environment and Energy (formerly DoE)
EA	Environmental Authority
EBSDS	East Banks Sea Disposal Site
EFMs	Environmentally Friendly Moorings
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
EPR	Environmental Performance Report
ERMP	Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program
ERMPAP	Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel
FBA	Fitzroy Basin Association
GAWB	Gladstone Area Water Board
GPC	Gladstone Ports Corporation
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LTSDP	Long Term Sediment Disposal Plan
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QITRC	Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services
RPMs	Reef Protection Markers
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSHD	Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge
WBRA	Western Basin Reclamation Area
WBDDP	Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project
WQIP	Water Quality Improvement Program
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan/ Water Quality Management Program



1. Introduction

The Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project (WBDDP) was declared a significant project by the Coordinator General (CG) on 24 April 2009. The Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) now Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (DAWE) approved the project with 52 conditions (Ref: *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation EPBC 2009/4904*) on 22 October 2010. The WBDDP accommodated the long term dredging of Gladstone Harbour which was intended to provide safe and efficient access to the emerging Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry in the region. This involved the dredging of approximately 22.5 million m³ of material from the seabed for the deepening and widening of the existing channels and swing basin and the creation of new channels, swing basins and berth pockets. Dredging for the WBDDP commenced on 20 May 2011. The dredged material was disposed at the Western Basin Reclamation Area (WBRA) at Fisherman's Landing (onshore) and the East Banks Sea Disposal Site (EBSDS) (offshore). Offshore dumping under the sea dumping permit last occurred on 18 March 2013. Dredging for Stage 1A of the project was completed on 18 September 2013 with 22.5 million m³ of material being dredged. 17.45 million m³ of this material was disposed at the WBRA and 5.11 million m³ in the EBSDS.

Compliance obligations under the EPBC Act Approval 2009/4904 in terms of monitoring and reporting still continue and this report is in fulfilment of one such Condition (46); which states:

Each year the person taking the action must provide a report to the Minister addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval. The date of the first compliance report must be within 42 days after the initial twelve months of the date of approval with each subsequent report 12 months from the date of the previous report. The Compliance report must:

- (a) be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GPC or a person approved in writing by the Department, delegated to sign on behalf of the CEO or the person taking the action;
- (b) include a statement as to whether the person taking the action has complied with the conditions;
- (c) identify any non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken; and
- (d) make the compliance report publicly available on the internet within 30 days of it being submitted to the Minister.

The 2020 Annual Compliance Report (ACR) has been prepared covering the period 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020 and should be read in conjunction with the 2020 Environmental Performance Report (EPR) which is being submitted along with this report in compliance with Conditions 36 and 37 of the EPBC Act Approval 2009/4904. Many conditions in this approval relate to an active stage of dredging, which was completed in September 2013. Previous ACRs (2011 to 2014) demonstrated compliance with these conditions and have been referred to in relevant sections of the report. These reports are also available on the Gladstone Port Corporation's (GPC's) website.

This current report focusses on demonstrating compliance with the conditions relevant to activities that occurred during the reporting period 1 November 2019 – 31 October 2020. A compliance rating of (Y) has been assigned to Compliant conditions; Not Applicable (NA) to those conditions that are not relevant in the current reporting period and a compliance rating of Partial Compliance (PC) has been assigned to any obligation that has been partially met.



No compliance issues were identified during the current reporting period.

The activities that are currently occurring under the approval are:

- Monitoring of groundwater at the WBRA
- Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy Monitoring Programs



2. Compliance Table

Approval – Conditions - Decision on Controlled Action EPBC 2009/4904

Current Status of project as at October 2020: Stage 1A of dredging works under this Approval was completed on 18 of September 2013.

NA: Not Applicable (as dredging operations for Stage 1A of WBDDP has been completed, details included in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 ACRs) Y:

Compliant, PC: Partial Compliance

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
1	Stages 1A and 1B of dredging works, as shown at Annexure 1 to this approval, are approved to a total volume of no more than 25 million cubic metres (in situ).	No dredging occurred in the current reporting period under this permit.	NA
2	The total offshore disposal at the East Banks Sea Disposal Site (EBSDS) is to be no more than 11 million cubic metres (in situ).	No offshore disposal occurred in the current reporting period under this permit. The WBDDP Sea Dumping Permit expired on 20 October 2015.	NA
3	Stages 2, 3 and 4 of dredging works, as shown at Annexure 1 to this approval, are approved to a total volume of no more than 21 million cubic metres (in situ), subject to receiving all further approvals required for any offshore disposal of dredge material.	Stage 2, 3 and 4 dredging works have not been undertaken.	NA
4	Dredging works associated with Stages 2, 3 and 4, as shown at Annexure 1 to this approval, that require spoil disposal in addition to the approved disposal at the East Banks disposal ground as at condition 2, are approved but must be phased in accordance with a Long Term Sediment Disposal Plan (LTSDP). This plan must: a) Be developed in consultation with the Department (and The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) should offshore disposal in the GBRMP be proposed);	Stage 2, 3 and 4 dredging works have not been undertaken.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	 b) Be submitted to the Department (and GBRMPA should offshore disposal in The Great Barrier Marine Park (GBRMP) be proposed) no less than two years prior to the expected date of commencement of Stage 2, 3 or 4 of dredging; c) Be approved in writing by the Minister prior to the commencement of dredging of Stages 2, 3 or 4; d) Include a comprehensive assessment of all dredge material disposal alternatives; and Include an indicative timetable of future dredging required for Stages 2, 3 or 4. 		
5	No dredge material is to be disposed of in the GBRMP unless first authorised under all permits and authorities required for activities within the GBRMP.	No dredging and/or dredge material disposal occurred in the current reporting period under this permit. No dredge material has been disposed of in the GBRMP.	NA
6	The person taking the action must comply with the requirements of any permit obtained under the <i>Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981</i> , including any conditions attached.	under this permit. The WBDDP Sea Dumping Permit expired on 20	NA
7	The Western Basin land reclamation area must be no greater than 300 hectares in total and must be constructed generally in accordance with the design as shown at Annexure 2 to this approval and will not exceed 27 metres in height above LAT. Detailed specifications of the reclamation area must be included and approved in the Dredging and Construction Management Plan (DCMP) as described in condition 15(a).	, , ,	NA
8	The design, construction materials and construction methodology and management for the outer bund wall of the Western Basin land reclamation area must ensure appropriate design of the reclamation area to prevent water quality impacts from leaching material through the bund wall, decant		NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	waters and storm-water run-off.		
9	In relation to the management of acid sulphate soils and potential acid sulphate soils, the person taking the action must comply with the conditions and any amendments to these, contained at Schedules 1-3 of the 'Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project Coordinator-General's report for an environmental impact statement', July 2010.	In compliance with the WBDDP Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan (ASSMP), ground water monitoring at 28 groundwater wells is being conducted on a monthly basis at the Western Basin Reclamation Area (WBRA). The 2019 Annual Groundwater Monitoring report (January to December 2019) was submitted to the Department of Environment and Science (DES) in February 2020 and acceptance received on 15 April 2020.	Υ
		Monthly monitoring of the 28 bores at the WBRA in 2020 has shown that both water levels and water quality parameters are within the normal range of variability.	
10	The person taking the action must not undertake any dredge material rehandling.	No dredging operations were conducted during the current reporting period under this permit. No dredge material rehandling has been undertaken.	NA
11	One trailer suction hopper dredge (TSHD) is permitted to operate at any given time. When the TSHD is in use, a maximum of two cutter suction dredges may operate unless otherwise prescribed in the approved Water Quality Monitoring Program as required by condition 21.	No dredging operations were conducted during the current reporting period under this permit.	NA
12	The TSHD must not operate in overflow mode except during the last one hour of flood tide and first three hours of ebb tide unless otherwise in accordance with the approved Water Quality Monitoring Program as required by condition 21.	No dredging operations occurred during the current reporting period under this permit.	NA
13	The TSHD must not operate in overflow mode for more than 30 minutes per cycle, with no more than two cycles per tide unless otherwise in accordance with the approved Water Quality Monitoring Program as required by condition 21.	No dredging operations occurred during the current reporting period under this permit.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
14	Where construction and or dredging methods with lower environmental impacts are identified to be practical, these methods must be implemented.	No construction activities or dredging occurred in the reporting period.	NA
15	To mitigate the impacts from dredging activities on the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place, and EPBC Act listed threatened and migratory species, the person taking the action must prepare and submit to the Minister for approval a Dredging and Construction Management Plan (DCMP). The DCMP must include the following:	The WBDDP Dredge Management Plan (DMP) took into consideration all compliance under this condition (2013 ACR). No dredging operations occurred during the current reporting period under this permit. The WBDDP DMP is currently dormant until further dredging under this permit occurs as per agreement with the Department of Environment and Science (DES)	NA
	 a) Detailed specifications of the reclamation area; b) Mapping of significant and sensitive receptors in the port area, including within Port Curtis and within and adjacent to the East Banks spoil ground with linkages to applicable monitoring programs; c) Assessment of all potential and real environmental risks to matters protected by the EPBC Act from dredging activities and construction activities; 		
	d) Appropriate measures (for example mitigation measures, performance indicators / trigger levels and corrective actions / management actions) that will ensure that there are no unacceptable impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place, EPBC Act listed threatened or migratory species. These must include: i. Operating procedures to minimize injury to, or mortality of, EPBC Act listed threatened or migratory species from dredging activities or		



Condition No.		Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		construction activities;		
	ii.	Reporting mechanisms that ensure reporting		
		to the Minister within one business day of		
		injury to, or mortality of, an EPBC Act listed		
		threatened or migratory species cause by		
		dredging activities or construction activities;		
	iii.	Management triggers, based on results		
		obtained from the Water Quality Monitoring		
		Program referred to at condition 21, including		
		a reporting requirement to advise the		
		Department in writing within one working day		
		when triggers are exceeded;		
	iv.	Contingency measures, based upon results of		
		water quality and seagrass monitoring and		
		the ERMP required under condition 27, when		
		dredging operations must be varied or		
		suspended;		
	V.	Management triggers and contingency		
		measures when construction or pile driving		
		must be varied or suspended;		
	vi.	Measures that minimize the risk of introduced		
		marine pest species, including ballast-water		
		management and vessel inspections for any		
		non-domestic vessels;		
	vii.	Measures that ensure that dredging activities		
		do not impact corals during coral spawning		
		periods; and		
	viii.	Responsive actions that will be undertaken in		
		the event contingency measures are		
		employed, including reporting to the Minister.		
	e) Detail	s of responsible parties for each action		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
-	described in the DCMP;		
	 f) An organizational structure showing all responsible parties referred to in condition 15(e); 		
	 g) Measures that ensure periodic reviews of the DCMP and that ensure continual improvement measures are applied accordingly; and h) Future maintenance dredging requirements and cumulative impacts of other dredging that may occur 		
	consequential to the project.		
16	The DCMP must be submitted for approval by the Minister at least 1 month prior to the proposed commencement of dredging operations.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2013 ACR)	NA
17	Dredging activities must not commence until the DCMP has been approved. The approved DCMP must be implemented.	No dredging operations were conducted in the current reporting period under this permit.	NA
	Technical Reference Panel		
18	The person taking the action must establish, fund and manage a technical reference panel. The technical reference panel must be established according to the following requirements: a) The technical reference panel must be established prior to and for the duration of the project; b) The members of the technical reference panel must include, in addition to regulators, independent scientific and technical experts, of whom at least one must be a scientific expert in seagrass and benthic habitat research and management, and one a technical expert in dredging matters; c) The membership of technical reference panel must be	On 6 March 2014, the Dredge Technical Reference Panel (DTRP) members were issued with a letter from GPC advising them of the completion of Stage 1A of WBDDP and the cessation of the DTRP.	NA
	c) The membership of technical reference panel must be approved by the Minister in writing prior to the		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	completion and submission of the Water Quality Monitoring Program to the Minister for approval; d) Terms of reference for the technical reference panel, which must include the frequency of proposed meetings, chairing and quorum arrangements, must be approved by the Minister in writing prior to the completion and submission of the Water Quality Monitoring Program to the Minister for approval.		
19	The person taking the action must ensure that the technical reference panel undertakes the following: a) Provides regular advice on the design and ongoing review of the Water Quality Monitoring Program, referred to in condition 21; and b) Provides advice on and oversees all aspects of water quality monitoring, including the implementation of a transition from a water quality monitoring program that is based on turbidity towards a program that is based on light attenuation and seagrass health. c) Assess any exceedance of trigger values and seagrass changes at key monitoring locations and advises changes to dredging practices, through the DCMP, as required.	The DTRP is no longer functional.	NA
20	The person taking the action must provide to the Minister, a copy of all the recommendations made by the technical reference panel and an explanation of how these recommendations have, or will be, implemented. This information must be provided to the Minister within one month of receiving advice from the technical reference panel, or within any timeframe should this be less than one month. Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQMP)	The DTRP is no longer functional.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
21	Prior to the commencement of dredging activities, the person taking the action must develop a Water Quality Monitoring Program to manage the impacts from dredging activities on water quality and the ecological health of marine communities relevant to the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place, listed threatened species and migratory species and must be approved in writing by the Department.	In written agreement with DES, the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) has been placed into a dormant stage until further dredging occurs.	NA
22	The primary objectives of the proposed water quality monitoring program must be to protect sensitive marine ecosystems by: a) Verifying the results of plume modelling and predicted effects, including the spatial extent, magnitude and duration of elevated turbidity and / or reduced light attenuation in the vicinity of dredging and related activities; b) Providing information that can be used to alter dredge methods and / or implement mitigation measures in an adaptive management framework to ensure the protection of sensitive marine ecosystems.	A detailed water quality and seagrass monitoring program was implemented throughout the duration of dredging and for a period of five (5) years post completion of dredging as specified in the WQMP. (Please refer 2011 to 2017 ACRs for details).	NA
23	In order to meet the objectives at condition 22, the WQMP must include the following: a) Monitoring must commence a minimum of 6 months prior to commencement of dredging;	Compliance with 23 a-n was demonstrated in 2011-2019 ACRs Post-dredging annual seagrass monitoring came to an end in 2018.	NA
	 b) Monitoring must continue over the full period of dredging activities, and for a period prior to and after dredging as defined by the monitoring program; c) Methods of water quality sampling must include appropriate quality assurance / quality control (QA / QC); 		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	 d) Monitoring and reporting must be consistent with the National Water Quality Management Strategy Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (2000) or subsequent versions thereof; 		
	e) Must be consistent with the Water Quality Guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (2009) or subsequent versions thereof;		
	f) Establishment of baseline background water quality conditions including an analysis of water quality variability, and key factors that influence this variability, including resuspension of dredged material;		
	g) Measurement of water quality conditions at reference locations and in the vicinity of dredging and other project related activities ('exposed' locations);		
	h) Development of a trigger or triggers for management action is when impacts are observed in areas expected to be impacted by dredge activities;		
	 i) Development of a trigger or triggers for management actions when impacts are observed in areas where they were not predicted; 		
	 j) Hydrodynamic and plume modelling during dredging, to assist the validation of water quality predictions associated with dredging and / or related operations; 		
	k) Selection of appropriate reference and exposed monitoring locations based on condition 23(e) (at least 6-12 sites) as agreed to by the technical reference panel at condition 18 above;		
	I) A description of methodology including: i) QA / QC for measurement of water quality conditions;		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	ii) Consideration to be given to continuou real-time (eg., via telemetry and sampling by field personnel) measureme turbidity and / or light attenuation at m depths;	spot ents of	
	iii) Consideration of non-project related f that may also affect water quality;	actors	
	iv) Visual techniques (e.g. aerial photograph	ny);	
	v) Methods for monitoring the dispersion suspended sediments which must in some means of assessing resettlement spoil disposal impacts).	of re- nclude	
	vi) Derivation of turbidity and / or attenuation trigger values based of assessment of the light requirement seagrasses in the Gladstone area modified as new research inform becomes available;	on an hts of and	
	vii) Description of the approach for pres	enting luding	
	m) a schedule for reporting water quality moni	itoring	
	results to the Department;		
	n) A description of adaptive management action	s that	
	will be undertaken should the derived trigger		
	exceeded, both in terms of operational proce		
	and the water quality monitoring program.	These	
	actions must be linked to the DCMP;	nsitivo	
	 o) Mapping and assessing key significant and service receptors, including but not limited to seagrass 		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	and coral reefs. The monitoring program must include: i. Establishment of permanent assessment sites at key locations, with at least quarterly measurements of health and resilience, indicators of which are to be identified in the monitoring plan; ii. Consideration of natural season variation; iii. Assessment of resilience to impact and capacity for recovery.		
24	The person taking the action must make the findings, including related data, of any or all of these studies or activities publicly available upon request by any interested parties.	All requests for information pertaining to the release of reports received in the current reporting period were actioned and relevant reports made available on the GPC website or to individuals in accordance with GPC's data request procedure.	Y
	Research Advisory Panel		
25	The person taking the action must establish, fund and manage a research advisory panel. The research advisory panel must be established according to the following requirements: a) The research advisory panel must be established prior to and for the duration of the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program (ERMP) as described at condition 27, to assist in the design and ongoing review of the ERMP such that the research is relevant and incorporated into the adaptive management of the Western Basin Strategic Dredging and Disposal Project; b) The members of the research advisory panel must include independent scientific experts of whom at least one must be a scientist with expertise in inshore dolphins, one a scientist with expertise in marine reptiles, one a scientist with expertise in migratory	Condition 25a-c: The ERMP and Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel (ERMPAP) have been functional during the current reporting in accordance with the condition requirements. Condition 25d: The current version of the ERMPAP Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved by DAWE on 20 October 2015.	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	shorebirds and one a scientist with expertise in tropical marine ecology; c) The membership of the research advisory panel must be approved by the Minister in writing prior to the completion and submission of the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program to the minister for approval; and d) The terms of reference for the research advisory panel, which must include the frequency of proposed meetings, chairing and quorum arrangements, must be developed by the Panel at its inception and must be approved by the Minister in writing prior to the submission of the ERMP to the Minister for approval.		
26	The person taking the action must provide to the Minister, a copy of all the recommendations made by the research advisory panel and an explanation of how these recommendations have, or will be, implemented. This information must be provided to the Minister within one month of receiving advice from the research advisory panel or within any timeframe recommended by the research advisory panel, should this be less than one month.	In the current reporting period, three ERMP Advisory Panel (ERMPAP) meetings were held. The agenda items of these meetings included: • Update on results and findings of ERMP surveys and research • Further monitoring or research requirements or addition/omissions • Resolutions for advice to GPC and subsequently DAWE • Evaluation on project proposal for future studies.	Y
		In the current reporting period, one letter of recommendation dated 13 August 2020 was received from the Chair of the ERMPAP. The ERMPAP recommended that the ERMP term be extended for one more year (October 2022) to enable timely completion of all projects (as some projects have been delayed by restrictions imposed by COVID-19, details included in the 2020 EPR).	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		This recommendation has been accepted by GPC and letter sent to DAWE accepting the recommendation by the ERMPAP within one month of receiving the recommendation.	
	Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program		
27	The person taking the action must develop and implement an Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program (ERMP) to acquire a detailed ecological understanding of the marine environment of Port Curtis and Port Alma that can be used to monitor, manage and / or improve the regional marine environment and to offset potential impacts from the project on listed threatened and migratory species and values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place.	The current ERMP was approved by DAWE (now DAWE) on 8 January 2016 and programs are proceeding in accordance with the approved ERMP. Additional programs which are being recommended by the Panel have been included in the 2020 EPR. The revised ERMP (including the additional programs) will be submitted to DAWE for approval in December 2020	Y
28	The ERMP must be submitted to the Department for approval no later than six months from the date of this approval.	No relevant in the current reporting period (2012 ACR)	NA
29	After twelve months from the date of this approval the person taking the action must not undertake any dredging activities, land reclamation or construction activities unless the Minister has approved the ERMP in writing.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2012 ACR)	NA
30	The ERMP must be implemented for a period of no less than ten years from the date of the Department's initial approval of the ERMP.	Programs to meet the conditions under the ERMP were initiated in 2011. The ERMP is proposed to run until 2022, though individual projects may have varying durations as outlined in the approved ERMP. Additional programs that are being recommended by the ERMPAP have been included in the 2020 EPR.	Y
31	The results of the ERMP must be used to inform an adaptive management response to observed impacts or potential impacts identified.	The outcomes of the Tier 1 literature review and gap analysis studies on marine turtles, dugongs, dolphins and migratory shorebirds have been instrumental in the design of the Tier 2 core research projects, currently being conducted under the ERMP. It is being envisaged that	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		the information gained from the Tier 2 projects will help in the management or improvement of the regional environment. The ERMPAP has suggested that funding be allocated for the preparation of a 'Synthesis Report' in 2020-2022 compiling information from all the studies conducted under the ERMP. The objective of the "Synthesis Report" will be to assess whether any potential impacts from the project could be identified and to suggest management options.	
32	The ERMP must be reviewed and revised (if appropriate) and submitted to the Minister on an annual basis, or at such other time as might be as otherwise agreed by the Minister from the date of the Department's initial approval for the duration of the ERMP.	, ,	Y
33	Ecosystem and Research Monitoring Programme The ERMP must include, but not be limited to, the following: Marine Megafauna (a) Conditions 33(b) to (e) below must be undertaken for EPBC Act listed threatened and migratory species, including dugong, turtles and dolphins and other species as relevant to the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place. (b) Determine measurable population characteristics for key species before the start of dredging and develop appropriate indicators to monitor population changes. (c) Monitor the effects of project-related activities including, but not limited to: dredge vessel movement; pile driving; construction dredging; bund wall construction during dredging; construction of the bund wall; and filling of the reclamation area with reference to matters including: noise and, where	 The approved ERMP complies with the conditions of this approval. The following projects are in progress or reports were received by GPC in the current reporting period. A status update of each of the programs has been included in the 2020 EPR. Assessment of Toxicological Status of Humpback and Snubfin Dolphins in the Port Curtis and Port Alma- Project in progress. Monitoring of Australian humpback dolphins at Agnes Water to investigate distribution and movement patterns adjacent to the Gladstone Ports Corporation ERMP study area - Final report received. Study on the cause and health condition of beached dugong - Final report received. 	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	relevant, associated pressure impacts; light spill; water quality reduction; decreased access to intertidal foreshore habitat; increased sedimentation; displacement (d) Identify potentially suitable habitats for key megafauna in the region at an ecological scale appropriate for megafauna species. (e) Determine the utilisation and significance of The Narrows for megafauna, and what effects the project may have on utilisation of this area. (f) The person taking the action must fund activities (conditions 33(a) – (e) above) to an amount of no less than \$5 million for the duration of the ERMP, expenditure of which is to be detailed in the compliance report required annually under condition 46 of this approval.	 Comprehensive survey of the migratory shorebirds - Project in progress. Assessing the impact of Reclamation Activities on migratory Shorebirds at the Western basin Reclamation Area - Project in progress. Monitoring the survival and recovery of shorelines, specifically Tidal Wetlands (Mangroves/Saltmarsh/Saltpans) - Project in progress. Migratory Shorebird Monitoring: Correlates of changing shorebird numbers - Project being initiated. ERMP Synthesis Report- Project in progress. Feasibility of Assessing Impact of Dredging operations on megafauna in the Port of Gladstone - Completed. 	
	Migratory Shorebirds (g) Comprehensive surveys of Port Curtis and Port Alma prior to the start of dredging including: population censuses of all species present, mapping of feeding and roosting sites, investigation of habitat utilisation relative to the lunar/tide cycles and season, and identification of critical characteristics of important habitat. (h) A minimum of two years of surveys, including two surveys in the December – February period, single surveys during both the northward and southward migration periods and a minimum of one survey during winter (May-August). (i) Single, annual summer surveys (October – March) covering the major high tide roost sites from years three to eight, with a repeat of the comprehensive surveys during years nine and ten.	 Total expenditure on marine megafauna and habitats as at 31 October 2020 is \$3,858,072.54 Total expenditure on shorebirds as at 31 October 2020 is \$2,442,890.63 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	(j) Monitoring the effect of those port development activities potentially affecting migratory shorebirds, including but not limited to: Dredge vessel movement Pile driving Construction dredging Bund wall construction during dredging Construction of the bund wall Filling of the reclamation area And will address matters including: Noise impacts Light spill Water quality reduction Decreased access to intertidal foreshore habitat Displacement (k) The person taking the action must fund activities (conditions 33(g) to (j) above) to an amount of no less than \$2 million for the duration of the ERMP, expenditure of which is to be detailed in the compliance report required annually under condition 46 of this approval. Seagrass	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	-
	 (I) Annual long term seagrass monitoring surveys of seagrass distribution and abundance in the Western Basin and Port Curtis. (m) Monitor survival and recovery of seagrass and other marine communities in the project area during the construction period and for a minimum of five years following completion of dredging 		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	Reporting		
34	The person taking the action must publish the ERMP Program on their website within two weeks of approval in writing by the Department.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2016 ACR)	Y
35	The person taking the action must make the findings, including related data, of any or all of these studies publicly available upon request by any interested parties.	All final reports related to the ERMP are published on GPC's website. https://www.gpcl.com.au/envirodocs	Y
36	The person taking the action must submit to the Minister an annual Environmental Performance Report covering the following topics: a) Dolphins, dugong and marine turtles, and other megafauna; b) Migratory shorebirds; and c) Seagrass.	The 2020 EPR has been prepared to provide a status update on the ERMP during the 2019-2020 reporting period. This report has been submitted along with this compliance report.	Y
37	12 Months from the date of approval, a report must be submitted outlining the initial environmental activities for the 12 month period. The report to be called the Environmental Performance Report and must be submitted within 42 days of the 12 month activity period. The Environmental Performance Report must include proposed environmental management improvements to be implemented through the DCMP, WQMP and other Plan as relevant. Reports are required annually from thereafter.	The EPR for the reporting period of 2019-2020 will be submitted to the Minister on or before 2 December 2020.	Y
38	The person taking the action must submit a Biodiversity Offset Strategy to the Minister for approval in order to offset unavoidable impacts to the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place, and EPBC Act listed threatened and migratory species. The strategy	A Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) was developed and 16 projects identified to meet conditions under 38a to d. The BOS was submitted to DAWE on 5 July 2012. Approval was received from DAWE on 18 July 2012.	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	must include as a minimum the following requirements: a) Measures funded to not less than \$5 million including, but not limited to: i. Funding for listed threatened and migratory species protection, habitat enhancement and restoration actions in the region or the wider bioregion such as 'seagrass friendly' mooring systems, wetland rehabilitation projects and water quality improvement programs; ii. Actions to reduce fisheries netting pressure in Port Curtis and in adjacent waters; and iii. Actions to reduce potential for coastal impacts such as commercial development in adjacent areas b) Details of the management arrangements and a map of the 3,000 hectares of land at Port Alma proposed protection in perpetuity as an Environment Preservation Area; c) A Strategic Vessel Management plan for Port Curtis that must include, but not be limited to: i. Measures that will regulate boating speeds and movement in Port Curtis in perpetuity, including ongoing funding for enforcement of the program; ii. The establishment of 'go slow' zones; and iii. Establish roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Plan. d) Development of a seagrass conservation plan that must include but not be limited to: i. A map clearly illustrating the areas to be protected including the Wiggins / Mud Island		



Condition	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance
No.	seagrass beds, seagrass beds east of Quoin Island and seagraas beds in Pelican Banks; ii. Measures to ensure that the seagrass beds within the Port are protected from ongoing and future Port activity; and iii. Commitments to ensure no further direct seagrass removal of the areas referred to in 38(d)i above, accounting for any increases in size of the mapped seagrass areas. e) The strategy must include key milestones, performance indicators, actions and timeframes for the completion of all offsets outlined in the strategy. f) The strategy must be prepared with the advice of the Water Quality technical reference panel and the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program research advisory panel. The person taking the action must provide the written advice of these panels when submitting the strategy for approval.	 5.3 Assessment, implementation and compliance of go slow zones-No further progress is required for this project A feasibility study on the establishment of enforced "go slow zones" was commissioned. "Report-Assessment and Review of Marine Traffic, Marine Fauna Incidents and the Necessity of "go slow zones". The study found that GPC does not have the jurisdiction to implement "go slow zones". The studies recommended (a) developing a Vessel Operations Procedure to regulate GPC owned vessels and (b) developing an education and awareness program to act as a non-regulatory tool for facilitating community engagement regarding marine fauna management in Port Curtis. A Vessel Operations Procedure for Marine Megafauna Protection for GPC owned vessels has been developed and submitted to DAWE for approval. DAWE has requested further information on Projects 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 prior to approving the Vessel Management Procedure. This information will be provided post completion of project 5.1. This project is also being met by promotion of education and awareness in the local community with activities being conducted under Project 5.1 for the "go slow for those below" campaign. 5.4 Support to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for marine animal strandings – No further progress is required for this project In February 2014, QPWS advised GPC that there was limited need for funding and that GPC should channel funding 	Rating



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		towards other organisations conducting marine rehabilitation works. • GPC advised DAWE of this development and the decision to fund other agencies undertaking marine rehabilitation work in the Gladstone Region through letter dated 17 March 2014. • Agreement was received from DAWE on 20 May 2014. Hence funding from this project has been reallocated to project 5.15. 5.5 Habitat enhancement and restoration actions Weed Management • GPC engaged the services of Gidarjil Development	
		 Corporation to conduct weed control activities on Facing Island between June and August 2020. The Gidarjil Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers used a combination of a traditional cool burn method, as well as localised herbicide spraying to treat five types of weeds identified for management (rubber vine, parthenium weed, prickly pear, groundsel bush and agave) (Figures 3 and 4). The 2020 initiative was successfully completed and has received compliments from local residents. The program will be repeated in 2021. 	
		5.6 Stormwater pollution	
		 In 2019, GPC along with the Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) conducted a feasibility analysis of the installation of a second gross pollutant trap unit. Potential sites were visited and storm water networks 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		 assessed for installation of a preferred unit. Unfortunately due to lack of GRC resources to install and maintain the unit in perpetuity this project will potentially not progress. In the current reporting period, GPC has engaged the services of CleanWater group to install removable stormwater pollution control units called "Drain Buddies" at select locations on GPC land. Cleanwater Group is a company who have coordinated and facilitated successful projects utilising the "drain buddy" within a number of Council areas (Gladstone Regional Council, Mackay Regional Council, Yeppoon Regional Council). The project will aim to: Spread awareness on the types of pollutants being generated on GPC land. Help in reduction of pollutants from reaching the Gladstone Harbour.21 sites have been selected for installation of the "Drain Buddies". The sites were selected based on pollution load and ease of access. Due to travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the installation of the units have been delayed and will now take place in December 2020. A schedule of maintenance (twice in the wet season and once in the dry season) has been recommended for two years post-installation. The maintenance activity will also include categorisation of waste to provide information of the type and quantity of waste being generated. 	



Condition	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
No.			Kating
		5.7 Distribution, maintenance and monitoring of Tangler bins - This	
		project has been completed	
		This project has been completed. An acknowledgement letter of	
		completion was received from DAWE dated 3 August 2017	
		(#1353226).	
		5.8 Coral mapping and restoration	
		 Health assessment and coral surveys were undertaken in 2014. 	
		A report "Prioritisation of Reef Restoration and Enhancement	
		 Site Selection – Phase 2 and 3" including status and map of coral. 	
		 Distribution in the region and wider bioregion was finalised in 2015. 	
		 This report suggests that restoration may not be a viable option in the BOS region and wider bioregion. This view has 	
		 been endorsed by GBRMPA scientists. Alternative measures to achieve the intent of this condition 	
		are being reviewed through stakeholder interaction and	
		attendance by GPC at workshops to have an understanding of	
		actions to be undertaken.	
		Based on reports of occurrence Crown of Thorn disease in at	
		Swain's Reef in 2019 GPC, decided to seek further advice from	
		QPWS on projects aimed at restoring coral health.	
		QPWS directed GPC to GBRMPA for further advice.	
		In July 2020, GPC contacted GBRMPA to seek advice on	
		options for conducting coral restoration works.	
		In October 2020, GPC received advice from GBRMPA to	
		contact James Cook University and the Australian Institute of	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	Requirement	Marine Science for further discussions around proposed offset projects. GPC is currently in discussions with the organisations to investigate options for potential projects. Jeff Integrated map of all protected areas and sensitive habitats in the region and wide bioregion - This project has been completed. This project was completed. An acknowledgement letter of completion has been received from DAWE dated 20 October 2017. Jeff Environmentally Friendly Moorings program Following approval by DAWE dated 31 October 2016, that installation of six (6) public Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs) and up to six (6) Reef Protection Markers (RPMs) within Pancake Creek Queensland will satisfy the requirements of Project 5.10. Installation of six (6) EFMs and six (6) RFMs was completed in October 2018. Post-installation benthic survey of substrate was conducted in September 2019. Increase in seagrass cover was observed at one site with dense seagrass extensions both north and west of the monitored site. Post-installation benthic survey was conducted in 2020 and preliminary observations show that the benthic condition has	-
		 remained stable in 2020. No evidence of anchor damage to corals around the benthic monitoring sites was noted. No evidence of damage to seagrass by anchors was noted. 	



Condition	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance
No.			Rating
		 The final report is expected to be delivered to GPC in 	
		December 2020.	
		5.11 Development of a regional code of practice for Inshore netting (Gladstone Region) - This project has been completed	
		This project has been completed. An acknowledgement letter of	
		completion has been received from DAWE dated 12 April 2017.	
		5.12 Funding of DAFF Boating and Fisheries Patrol	
		 Discussions were held between GPC and DAF on the logistics of working out funding arrangements in 2015 but since the approval of the BOS, no Queensland Boating and Patrol Officers have been based in Gladstone. Discussions between DAWE and GPC held on 21 May 2016 highlighted the fact that the intent of his project was to enforce 'go slow zones' in the harbour while WBDDP was in progress. As GPC has no mandate to implement 'go slow zones' in the harbour the intent of this project cannot be met. The intent of this project is being addressed through the Education and Awareness program 	
		5.13 Acquisition of High Value Land to protect from Development-	
		This project has been completed	
		 Land adjacent to Cawarral Creek (Lot 3 on SP283391) was purchased by GPC in July 2016. 	
		 This parcel was identified as high value ecological land as it is a tidal wetland and borders onto both the Keppel Sands 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		Conservation Park and the Cawarral Creek declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA). By securing this parcel of land, the link between the Cawarral Creek declared FHA and Keppel Sands Conservation Park is preserved by restricting access to this sensitive ecosystem. The parcel of land was transferred to the Department of Environment and Science effective from the 19th of November 2018. All commitments regarding the transfer of the allotment have been settled. This project has now been completed. 5.14 Upper and lower catchment water quality monitoring and improvement of water quality in the Boyne or Calliope Rivers In 2019, sites adjacent to creeks in the Boyne-Calliope catchment were identified for restoration activities. The intent of the restoration activities is to reduce amount of land sourced gross pollutants, sediments and nutrients impacting the Gladstone Harbour. Activities planned include weed control, targeted revegetation, and implementation of erosion control measures. Community engagement sessions were planned to be held to spread awareness about improving catchment water quality. Activities were planned for commencing in 2020. This project could not progress in 2020 due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19.	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		 GPC has commenced discussions with the Gladstone Regional Council about progressing with the project with easing of restrictions. 	
		5.15 Provide funding for a proposed marine rehabilitation facility in Gladstone- This project has been completed.	
		 Funding was provided both to Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre (QITRC) and Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) from 2014 to 2018. 	
		This project has now been completed.	
		5.16 Declared Fish Habitat Investigations in the Central Queensland Region - This project has been completed	
		This project has been completed. An acknowledgement letter of completion has been received from DAWE dated 15 June 2017.	
		38b: Under the Marine Fish Habitat Offset, conditioned under the Coordinator General's report for an EIS for the WBDDP, GPC is required to protect 5000 ha of this land. In addition, 2.10 hectares was added to this offset as a result of the development of Stage 1A of the East Shores Precinct in Gladstone.	
		As confirmed by DAWE, the 3000 ha outlined in Condition 38(b) is included in this 5002.10 ha under the Marine Fish Habitat and East Shores Precinct Land offsets.	
		38c: A Vessel Operations Procedure for Marine Megafauna Protection for GPC owned vessels has been developed by GPC.	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
		This Procedure includes the following: 38c(ii) a map showing at-risk areas and speed restrictions imposed by Maritime Safety Queensland in the Harbour 38c(iii) Clearly establishing the roles and responsibilities for implementing the Procedure	
		38c(i) The study, "Assessment and Review of Marine Traffic, Marine Fauna Incidents and the Necessity of go Slow Zones" recommended that an education and awareness program can be initiated for the key marine megafauna species in the harbour. Following on from this recommendation, a program titled "go slow for those below" has been included under Project 5.1 of the BOS program. 38d: A Seagrass Conservation Plan has been developed to meet this approval condition which includes the following: 38d(i) A map showing the Wiggins/ Mud Islands, Quoin Islands and Pelican Banks meadows.	
		38d(ii) An account of ongoing monitoring programs in the harbour to assess recovery and resilience of seagrass.	
		38d(iii) Commitment by GPC that no further removal of seagrass will occur under this approval (2009/4904) other than what has been approved in the WBDDP Environmental Impact Statement.	
		38e. The approved BOS includes key milestones, performance indicators actions and timeframes for the completion of all offsets outlined in the Strategy.	
		38f: The BOS was prepared with the advice of the DTRP and the ERMPAP.	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
39	The person taking the action must make the findings, including related data, of any or all of these studies and activities publicly available upon request by any interested parties.	Reports generated under the BOS have been provided to interested parties upon request in accordance with GPC data request policy.	Υ
40	The Biodiversity Offset Strategy referred to in Condition 38 must be submitted to the Minister for approval by the Minister within 12 months of the date of this approval.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2013 ACR)	NA
41 Amended	After 21 months from the date of this approval, the person taking the action must not undertake any dredging activities, land reclamation or construction activities unless the Minister has approved the Biodiversity Offset Strategy in writing. The approved Plan must be implemented.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2013 ACR)	NA
42	The person taking the action must ensure that all relevant staff and contractors and any other persons working on the action receive comprehensive training in relation to the requirements of this decision and comply with all requirements of this decision relevant to their duties prior to commencing action on the project.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2012 ACR)	NA
43	Upon the direction of the Department, the person taking the action must ensure that an Independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Department. The independent auditor must be approved by the Department prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed by the Department and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Department.	No directive has been received from DAWE to appoint an independent auditor and conduct a third party audit of the EPBC 2009/4904 Permit to date	NA
44	If, at any time after two years from the date of this approval, the Minister notifies the person taking the action that the Minister is not satisfied that there has been substantial commencement of the action, the action must not thereafter	No notification has been received from the Minister to date.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	be commenced without the written agreement of the Minister		
45	Within 10 days of commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Minister in writing the actual date of commencement.	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2012 ACR)	NA
46(amended	Each year the person taking the action must provide a report to the Minister addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval. The date of the first compliance report must be within 42 days after the initial twelve months of the date of approval with each subsequent report 12 months from the date of the previous report. The Compliance report must: (a) be endorsed by the CEO of GPC or a person approved in writing by the Department, delegated to sign on behalf of the CEO or the person taking the action; (b) include a statement as to whether the person taking the action has complied with the conditions; (c) identify any non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken; and (d) Make the compliance report publicly available on the internet within 30 days of it being submitted to the Minister.	The current report is the tenth report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020. a) The report is endorsed by GPC Acting CEO, Craig Walker. b) GPC has complied with all conditions in this approval. c) No non-compliance or partial compliances have been identified in the current reporting period d) The current compliance report will be published on GPC's website within 30 days of its submission to DAWE.	Y
47	The Reports described at condition 46 must be provided until the closure of the action.	The current report is the tenth report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020.	Y
48	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the LTSDP, DCMP, WOMP, ERMP and Biodiversity Offset Strategy referred to in conditions 4, 15, 21, 26 and 38 respectively, the person taking the action must submit for the Minister's approval a revised	All currently implemented versions of the relevant plans have received approval from DAWE.	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
	version of the relevant plan (however described). The varied		
	activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved		
	the varied plan in writing. If the Minister approves such a		
	revised plan, that plan must be implemented in place of the		
	plan originally approved.		
49	All plans, reports, programs or strategies (however described)	This requirement was addressed in the 2012 ACR.	NA
	required under this approval must include the following		
	elements:		
	a) A description of the values of the Great Barrier Reef		
	World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place, and		
	EPBC Act listed species and habitat likely to be		
	impacted by the components of the action which are		
	the subject of that plan, report, program or strategy		
	(however described);		
	b) An assessment of the risk to these values, species or		
	habitats, from the components of the action the		
	subject of that plan, relevant to that plan, report,		
	program or strategy (however described);		
	c) Details of the management measures proposed in		
	relation to these values, species or habitats, if it is a		
	requirement of the condition requiring that plan,		
	report, program or strategy (however described);		
	d) Details of monitoring proposed that species if it is a		
	requirement of the condition requiring that plan,		
	report, program or strategy (however described);		
	e) Performance standards in relation to that species if it		
	is a requirement of the condition requiring that plan,		
	report, program or strategy (however described); and		
	f) Management triggers in relation to that species if it is		
	a requirement of the condition requiring that plan,		
	report, program or strategy (however described).		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(2019-2020)	Compliance Rating
50	Management plans, reports, systems and programs (however described) referred to in these conditions of approval must be made publicly available as determined by the Minister.	The WBDDP website was decommissioned in 2019. Website database has been archived. Reports pertaining to the ERMP are available on the GPC ERMP webpage http://www.gpcl.com.au/environment/ermp Reports pertaining to the BOS are available on the GPC BOS webpage http://www.gpcl.com.au/environment/bos	Y
51	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records of activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, and make them available on request by the Department. Such documents may be subject to audit by the Department and used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval.	All records of the reports and data have been saved in GPC's electronic document management system and/or (database management systems) and/or server and can be made available to the Department upon request.	Y
52	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or desirable for the better protection of any relevant controlling provision to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to any plans, reports, programs or systems (however described) approved pursuant to these conditions. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised plans, reports, programs or systems (however described) must be implemented.	No request was received from the Minister from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020.	NA



Attachment 1



Figure 1: Fishing Competition Advertisement



Figure 2: Fishing Competition announcement of winner





Figure 3: Weed control on Facing Island (Cool burn)



Figure 4: Weed control on Facing Island (Herbicide spraying)