

Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project

Annual Compliance Report - December 2021

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
(EPBC) 2009/4904

For the attention of: Department of the Agriculture, Water and Environment eDOC NO: 1751407





Rev No.	Date	Status	Author	Reviewer	Endorsed by
1	02/12/2021	Final	AS	KL	Paul Heagney Acting Chief Executive Officer



Table of Contents

Table of A	Abbreviations	4
1.	Introduction	5
2.	Compliance Table	7
Attachm	ent 1	35
Attachm	ent 2	42



Table of Abbreviations

Descriptor	Description
ACR	Annual Compliance Report
ASSMP	Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan
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
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
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 2021 Annual Compliance Report (ACR) has been prepared covering the period 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 and should be read in conjunction with the 2021 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 2020 – 31 October 2021. 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 projects as at October 2021: 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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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);	 A Long-term Spoil Disposal Plan for Future Stages of Dredging (Stages 1B and 2) was submitted to DAWE in July 2019. The Plan is currently under review by GPC following comments from DAWE. It is envisaged that the revised plan will be resubmitted to DAWE in 2022. 	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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 		
5	Stages 2, 3 or 4. 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.	No offshore disposal occurred during the current reporting period under this permit. The WBDDP Sea Dumping Permit expired on 20 October 2015.	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).	Not relevant in the current reporting period (2014 ACR).	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	This activity was completed in 2011.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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.	 The WBDDP Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan (ASSMP) was amended and approved by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) on 14 May 2021. The change included reducing the groundwater monitoring frequency at the Western Basin Reclamation Area (WBRA) 28 groundwater bores from monthly to six monthly. The 2020 Annual Groundwater Monitoring report (January to December 2020 was submitted to DES on 25 February 2021 and acceptance received on 14 May 2021. 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. 	Υ
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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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: 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	 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



Condition No.		Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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
	approved by the Minister in writing prior to the		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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:	The DTRP is no longer functional.	NA
	 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.		
20	The person taking the action must provide to the Minister, a	The DTRP is no longer functional.	NA
	copy of all the recommendations made by the technical	The Earn to the tenger remediation	
	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)		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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; 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);	 Compliance with 23 a-n was demonstrated in 2011-2019 ACRs Post-dredging annual seagrass monitoring came to an end in 2018. 	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	 ii) Consideration to be given to continuous and real-time (eg., via telemetry and spo sampling by field personnel) measurements o turbidity and / or light attenuation at multiple depths; 	t f	
	 iii) Consideration of non-project related factor that may also affect water quality; iv) Visual techniques (e.g. aerial photography); v) Methods for monitoring the dispersion of resuspended sediments which must include some means of assessing resettlement (for spoil disposal impacts). vi) Derivation of turbidity and / or light attenuation trigger values based on an assessment of the light requirements of seagrasses in the Gladstone area and modified as new research information becomes available; 		
	vii) Description of the approach for presenting water quality measurements including appropriate statistical methods. m) a schedule for reporting water quality monitoring results to the Department; n) A description of adaptive management actions that will be undertaken should the derived trigger(s) be exceeded, both in terms of operational procedure and the water quality monitoring program. These actions must be linked to the DCMP; o) Mapping and assessing key significant and sensitive		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
26	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. 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, one ERMP Advisory Panel (ERMPAP) meeting was held. The agenda items of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the project Titled "Assessment of Toxicological Status of Humpback and Snubfin Dolphins in the Port Curtis and Port Alma."	Y
	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	 The current ERMP was approved by DAWE on 17 February 2021. All programs are progressing in accordance with the approved ERMP with the exception of the project ""Assessment of Toxicological Status of Humpback and Snubfin Dolphins in the Port Curtis and Port Alma." 	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	Place.	 Despite multiple sampling efforts ranging over a period of one year (June 2020 to June 2021), the required number of biopsy samples could not be collected from either the Australian humpback or the Australian snubfin dolphin. Only three biopsy samples could be collected which precluded determination of any meaningful results on the toxicological status of the dolphins. For any statistically relevant conclusions, it was deemed that no less than 30 samples from different dolphins was required to be collected. The Panel recommended that the project be discontinued, as it was highly unlikely that any additional field trips would lead to substantive increase in collection of biopsy samples. The Panel also recommended that the observations on abundance of Australian humpback and Australian snubfin dolphins in Port Curtis and Port Alma be documented in a report and compared with observations from the 2014-2016 sampling campaign. This report has been received by GPC and is currently with the Panel for review. 	
28	The ERMP must be submitted to the Department for approval no later than six months from the date of this approval.	Not 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	Programs to meet the conditions under the ERMP were initiated in 2011. The ERMP is proposed to run until October 2022, though	Y



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	the ERMP.	individual projects may have varying durations as outlined in the approved ERMP.	
31	The results of the ERMP must be used to inform an adaptive management response to observed impacts or potential impacts identified.	 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. 	Y
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	 A revised ERMP was submitted to DAWE for approval on 11 January 2021 which included all projects recommended by the ERMPAP. 	Y
	of the ERMP.	Approval was received on 17 February 2021.	
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:	 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 2021 EPR. Assessment of Toxicological Status of Humpback and Snubfin Dolphins in the Port Curtis and Port Alma- Project report being reviewed by the Panel. Marine turtle nesting populations: Avoid, Peak and Curtis Island Flatback Turtles – Project reports are being reviewed by the Panel. Increase the Understanding of the Green Turtle Population in Port Curtis – Final Project Report has been reviewed by the 	Y
	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	 Panel and is being finalised. Comprehensive survey of the migratory shorebirds (2011-2021) - Project Completed Assessing the impact of Reclamation Activities on migratory 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	with reference to matters including: noise and, where 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.	 Shorebirds at the Western basin Reclamation Area - Project Completed Monitoring the survival and recovery of shorelines, specifically Tidal Wetlands (Mangroves/Saltmarsh/Saltpans) – Final Project Report awaited. Migratory Shorebird Monitoring: Correlates of changing shorebird numbers – Interim Project Report Received. Final project report awaited. ERMP Synthesis Report- Project in progress. Total expenditure on marine megafauna and habitats as at 31 October 2021 is \$ 3,816,492 Total expenditure on shorebirds as at 31 October 2021 is \$ 2,608,908 	
	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		



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	ten.		
	(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 (L) The parameter tables at the particular and participles.		
	(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		
	(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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	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 requests for information pertaining to the ERMP were responded to.	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 2021 EPR has been prepared to provide a status update on the ERMP during the 2010-2021 reporting period. This report has been submitted along with this compliance report.	Υ
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 2020-2021 will be submitted to the Minister on or before 2 December 2021.	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	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-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	Act listed threatened and migratory species. The strategy 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:	The status of these projects as at 31 October 2021 is: 5.1 Signage and Education: Due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, limited community based programs could be conducted in 2021. The following commitments have been made in the current reporting period: • Fish of the Month Competition (February 2020 to March 2022): Contestants were required to submit their favourite personal fishing photo taken in the Gladstone Region, Prizes: 1x Fishing Voucher valued at \$50.00 to spend at selected local fishing supply stores is available to be won each month. The prize winner(s) were selected by Gladstone News on the last working day of each month and prizes were awarded following winner validation and verification. Winner's details are being published on the Gladstone News Facebook page and published in the next printed edition. (Figures 1a,b). • BIG 6 Signs providing key facts on Shorebirds, Fish, Crab, Dolphins, Dugongs and Turtles were replaced at the Spinnaker Park (Figure 2 a,b,c,d,e,f) • Billboards depicting key messages on Turtles (Figure 3) Shorebirds, Sustainable Fishing and Dugongs received a new look with their skins being replaced. • Seven school engagement sessions were conducted by GPC to provide key information: Under a separate initiative (not under the BOS) GPC's Gladstone Marina received Fish Friendly	-
	i. A map clearly illustrating the areas to be	accreditation in October 2021. A fish survey of the marina	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	protected including the Wiggins / Mud Island 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.	conducted in the dry season showed the presence of over one thousand fish of 32 different species. 5.2 Assessment of marine traffic: This project has been completed 5.3 Assessment, implementation and compliance of go slow zones-No further progress is required for this project 5.4 Support to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for marine animal strandings – No action required. 5.5 Habitat enhancement and restoration actions Weed Management • Chemical control and cool burns were implemented in 2020 for the successful control of the following weeds on Facing Island. • Cryptostegia grandiflora (Rubber Vine) • Parthenium hysterophorus (Parthenium Weed) • Opuntioia stricta (Prickly Pear) • Baccharis halimifolia (Groundsel Bush) • Agave Sp (Agave) • In 2021, chemical treatment of weeds was conducted at priority locations, though cool burns could not be conducted as weather conditions were not conducive for burns. • The 2021 weed control report is yet to be received by GPC. • GPC will review the success of the program to determine weed future control methodologies and frequency.	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
INU.		 On the 7 and 8 of December 2020, GPC successfully installed removable stormwater gross pollutant control units commonly referred to as Drain Buddies at 21 locations on Strategic Port Land. (Figure 4a). The units have been serviced three times (January, May and September 2021) and the debris analysed for determining the type and quantification of the litter. Cigarette butts and filters topped the list followed by plastics films, foil wrappers, glass etc. On an average 211 kg of litter (including organic matter) was prevented from reaching the marine environment through this initiative (Figures 4b, c). Distribution, maintenance and monitoring of Tangler bins - This project has been completed 	
		 5.8 Coral mapping and restoration GPC has engaged the services of an experienced consultant to trial coral restoration at Seal Rocks and Manning's Reef. Both Seal Rocks and Mannings Reef had 30-60% coral cover prior to the 2013 flooding event. However, since then the coral cover has remained lower than 1%. Analysis of remote sensing data and monitoring results have shown that macrolage has taken over the substrate. Monitoring from 2014 to 2019 has shown no natural recovery of corals at the two sites. 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
		 The aims of the project are: To test the effectiveness of macroalgal removal for enabling coral recovery; To test the effectiveness macroalgal removal combined with coral transplantation for enabling coral recovery; and To conduct scientifically rigorous environmental monitoring associated with the above The project includes A baseline survey to assess the condition of the corals and macroalge and also to finalise the donor sites Macroalge removal to provide a suitable substrate for coral recruitment Coral Transplantation to enhance the rate of coral recovery Post restoration monitoring for 2 years to assess the effectiveness of the restoration techniques. The project is currently in approval phase for a Research Permit by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), General Fisheries Permit, Marine Plant Disturbance Permit. Baseline Survey is scheduled to be held in November 2021. Restoration work will commence after approvals have been received. 5.9 Integrated map of all protected areas and sensitive habitats in the region and wide bioregion - This project has been completed	
		5.10 Environmentally Friendly Moorings program	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
		 Installation of six (6) Environmentally Friendly Moorings and six (6) Reef Protection Markers was completed in October 2018 at Pancake Creek. The first post-installation benthic survey of the 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. The second post-installation benthic survey was conducted in October 2020 and report received by GPC in December 2020. Observations show that the benthic condition had remained stable in 2020. No evidence of anchor damage to corals around the benthic monitoring sites was noted. Coral cover had increased at one site. There is was evidence of recruitment with small colonies of hard corals observed. A decline in seagrass and macroalgal cover was noted at the monitoring locations which may have been due to seasonal reduction in coverage. There was evidence of the moorings being used by coastal travellers (Figure 5). The third and last post-installation monitoring was conducted in October 2021, the report is yet to be received by GPC. 5.11 Development of a regional code of practice for Inshore netting (Gladstone Region) - This project has been completed 5.12 Funding of DAFF Boating and Fisheries Patrol 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- 	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
		This project has 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. Discussions are in progress with the Gladstone Regional Council for conducting restoration activities at a priority wetland area in Gladstone Regional Council. 5.15 Provide funding for a proposed marine rehabilitation facility in Gladstone- This project has 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 Co-	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
		ordinator 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.	
		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.	



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
		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	
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.	Y
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.	, •,	
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) 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	No directive has been received from DAWE to appoint an independent auditor and conduct a third party audit of the EPBC 2009/4904 Permit	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	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.	to date	
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 be commenced without the written agreement of the Minister	No notification has been received from the Minister to date.	NA
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 eleventh report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021. a) The report is endorsed by GPC Acting CEO, Paul Heagney 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



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
47	The Reports described at condition 46 must be provided until the closure of the action.	The current report is the eleventh report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021.	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 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.	received approval from DAWE. red d d d d a	
49	All plans, reports, programs or strategies (however described) 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);	This requirement was addressed in the 2012 ACR.	NA



Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2020-31/10/2021)	Compliance Rating
	 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). 		
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 2020 to 31 October 2021.	NA



Attachment 1





Figures 1 (a,b) Winners of Fishing Competition







Figures 2(a,b,c) BIG SIX Discovery Trail signs replaced at Spinnaker Park







Figures 2 (d,e,f) BIG SIX Discovery Trail signs replaced at Spinnaker Park





Figure 3: BillBoard Sign displayed during Turtle Nesting Season



Figure 4a: Locations of Drain Buddies (Stormwater Pollutant Traps)



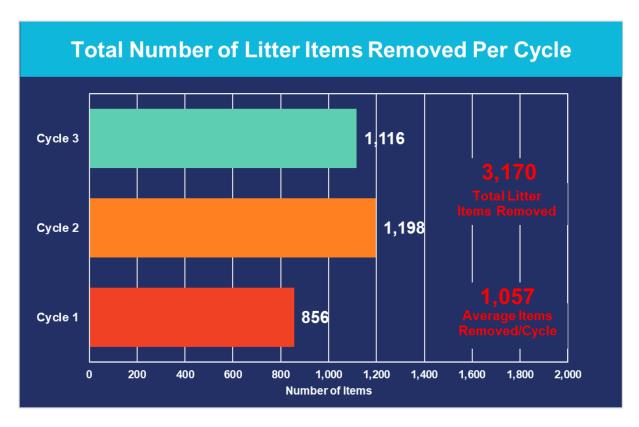


Figure 4b: Total Number of Litter Items Removed Per Cycle



Asset ID: 10

Item	Description	Notes:
Asset Status	Collected for AMDI Audit	
Submitter	Aaron	
Total volume captured (L)	30	1
Date/Time Serviced	September 14, 2021 5:20 AM	1



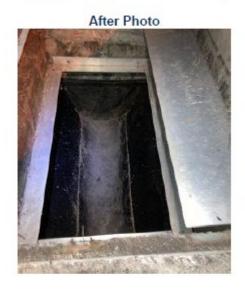






Figure 4c: Servicing record from asset No 10 showing before-after condition and the litter collected.





Figure 5: Image of vessel using the environmentally friendly mooring at Pancake Creek



Attachment 2

Reports received in the current reporting Period:

- 1. Pancake Creek Moorings Program Benthic Assessment, October 2020 (#1668164)
- 2. Stormwater Pollution Control Project- Drain Buddies Installation Report (#1669004)
- 3. Stormwater Pollution Control Project-Pollution Monitoring Report Cycle 1 (#1680217)
- 4. Stormwater Pollution Control Project-Pollution Monitoring Report Cycle 2 (#1711681)
- 5. Stormwater Pollution Control Project-Pollution Monitoring Report Cycle 3 (#1741340)
- 6. Assessing the Impact of Reclamation Activities on Migratory Shorebirds at the Western Basin Reclamation Area 2020(# 1684048)
- 7. Flatback nesting turtles on Curtis, Peak and Wild Duck islands-Milestone 18: field plan (#1664549)
- 8. Interim Project Report, Phase 1: Migratory shorebird population trends in the Gladstone region (#1732923)
- 9. Annual Western Basin Reclamation Area Groundwater Monitoring Report-2020 (# 1677841)