



## Technical Advisory Consultative Committee Meeting – Port of Gladstone

Tuesday 30 May 2023

**Attendees:** Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)  
 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)  
 Department of Environment and Science (DES)  
 Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)  
 Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)  
 James Cook University (JCU)  
 Central Queensland University (CQU)  
 Gladstone Conservation Council (GCC)  
 Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP)  
 Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring program (PCIMP)  
 Gladstone Regional Council (GRC)

**Apologies:** Gladstone Industry Leadership Group (GILG)

**Location:** Teams Meeting

Item	Description	Action Required
Meeting Open	<p><b>Meeting opened at 10:30am by Chairperson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement to country</li> <li>Attendees and Apologies</li> <li>Conflicts of Interest - nil</li> <li>Agenda overview</li> </ul>	
Actions from Previous Meeting	<b>No actions</b>	
TOR Update	An overview was provided of the review of Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR is available on <a href="http://www.gpcl.com.au/tacc">www.gpcl.com.au/tacc</a>	Nil
TACC Role	Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) is a maintenance dredging consultative group, comprising recognised stakeholder organisations, not individuals. The TACC role and responsibilities can be found at <a href="http://www.gpcl.com.au/tacc">www.gpcl.com.au/tacc</a>	Nil
Long Term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan	<p>Long Term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan (LMDMP) aligns with the Maintenance Dredging Strategy and Long Term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan Guidelines.</p> <p>TACC have been a key stakeholder in the review of the LMDMP. The LMDMP framework is a robust framework for managing maintenance dredging in Queensland and ensures application of best practice and continuous improvement principles. The LMDMP once implemented is reviewed at least every five (5) years and TACC will be involved in this process.</p> <p>The LMDMP was approved for 2018-2023. We are currently reviewing the LMDMP to ensure it is suitable for the next five (5) years. This is in the consultation phase.</p>	Nil

	<p>New application for Sea Dumping Permit (SDP) has been submitted to DCCEEW and the reviewed LMDMP will be approved as part of this process.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> TMR asked in relation to the Sea Dumping Permit application how long do you envisage this will take to go through the DCCEEW.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> DCCEEW replied - generally 3-4 months, sometimes quicker depending the application. We certainly hope to have completed our assessment prior to the expiry of the current permit.</p>	
Operational Update	<p><b>Annual Maintenance Dredging 2022</b> Campaign was 11 October to 15 November 2022, where 211,726m<sup>3</sup> of material was relocated over 33 days.</p> <p>Spatial areas map shows where we actually dredge in Gladstone, which is similar each year. The outer sea channels, typically on the toe-lines and sporadically throughout the channels where we get the siltation.</p> <p>Next campaign is scheduled about 10 August 2023 for approximately 33 days and up to a maximum 250,000m<sup>3</sup>.</p>	Nil
Environmental Update	<p><b>Compliance Water Quality (WQ) Monitoring – annual campaign</b> Monitoring commenced a month prior to the activity (11 September 2022) and ceased two weeks after the activity completed (29<sup>th</sup> November 2022).</p> <p>Monitoring of BPAR, turbidity were within the approved thresholds and dissolved metals were well below the water quality guidelines with the majority of them below level of reporting.</p> <p>Tides, weather and rain events showed discernible impact. No impact was identified from the activity.</p> <p>Report available at <a href="http://www.gpcl.com.au/maintenance-dredging-gladstone">www.gpcl.com.au/maintenance-dredging-gladstone</a></p> <p><b>Question:</b> JCU asked -Where is BPAR site WB25 located?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Passage Island – where there is a seagrass meadow (sensitive receptor) in the zone of influence.</p>	
Environmental Update	<p><b>Seagrass Monitoring</b> Annual seagrass monitoring occurred in October 2022, with 14 meadows in the Port of Gladstone (PoG) that represent the range of different seagrass community types as well as our port reference areas in Rodds Bay. Up until last year seagrass has been on an increasing trend and in good condition. In 2022 survey across PoG and Rodds Bay has reduced to satisfactory condition.</p> <p>Likely to be linked to the higher rainfall and river flows out of Calliope River, Boyne River and Colosseum Inlet and conditions have been correlated well with seagrass change across PoG in the past.</p> <p>There is strong evidence of continuing impacts on the meadows from herbivory pressure (dugongs and turtles). Observations that big declines in seagrass in Hervey Bay and the Sandy Straits due to two flooding events indicates (anecdotally) that some of the dugongs may have moved north to this region. When doing the surveys it was noted that there were a lot of dugongs feeding trails through lots of the meadows, and</p>	

	<p>that seemed to be more than previously seen. So that may also have contributed to some of the seagrass declines.</p> <p>In context seagrass is evenly distributed and didn't have large areas of seagrass completely missing. It is believed that the seagrass meadows will remain fairly resilient.</p> <p>Meadows in the dredging zone of influence at Passage Island, are in very good condition and indicating there are no impacts associated with the dredging activity. Overall there is no strong evidence of port related activities leading to any seagrass declines.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> CQU asked regarding the fragmenting of the meadows, whilst the outer extent isn't changing, there's areas that are starting to really fragment and become patchier, which affects their resilience. Not necessarily a measure in the monitoring for fragmentation, but noticing the patches. Is this being measured?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> JCU responded, that survey sites are spread throughout the meadows and part of this is a biomass or density hotspot mosaic of the meadows that shows where you get the patchiness and fragmentation. It is definitely in some meadows like Pelican Banks and the ones down at Rodds Bay certainly the big one is really quite patchy. Biomass takes into account the greater area and you may get some zeros in there because of missing seagrass in the meadow, which drops biomass down for the whole meadow. To demonstrate JCU presented images of meadows showing how biomass data is collected and averaged.</p> <p>Report will be made available (once finalised) at <a href="http://www.gpcl.com.au/maintenance-dredging-gladstone">www.gpcl.com.au/maintenance-dredging-gladstone</a>.</p>	
Other Business	<p><b>Sustainable Sediment Management (SSM) Project</b></p> <p>Options analysis, feasibility studies complete on the shortlist options and approvals to trial have been granted for In-Channel placement near Tide Island and Marina. Both options have been modelled as fully dispersive and not causing any environmental impact.</p> <p>Next step is to undertake a trial using the <i>TSHD Brisbane</i> using the Tide Island In-Channel Material Relocation Area (MRA).</p> <p>This is the intent of the trial and to see if this could be an area for ongoing placement of fine materials from Jacobs Channel, which accumulates fine silts and clays. Validation trials will determine if this SSM option is successful.</p> <p>GPC is in the process of placing these feasibility studies on website at <a href="http://Sustainable Sediment Management - Gladstone Ports Corporation (gpcl.com.au)">Sustainable Sediment Management - Gladstone Ports Corporation (gpcl.com.au)</a></p>	
General Questions	<p>Nil</p> <p>GPC committed to circulating the meeting presentation with the draft meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 11:05am by Chairperson</b></p>	Nil

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