

The Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project

Annual Compliance Report - December 2023

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

(EPBC) 2009/4904

For the attention of: Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and
Water

eDOC NO: 1908646



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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)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change Energy, Environment and Water
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DMP	Dredge Management Plan
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy
DTRP	Dredge Technical Reference Panel
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
PASS	Potential Acid Sulfate Soil
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSHD	Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge
WBRA	Western Basin Reclamation Area
WBDDP	Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project
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 Climate Change Energy Environment and Water (DCCEEW), 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 the shipping channels in the 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 placement 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 placed 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 2023 Annual Compliance Report (ACR) has been prepared covering the period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.

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 2022 – 31 October 2023. The following compliance ratings have been applied for each condition; Compliant (Y); Not Applicable (NA) to those conditions that are not relevant in the current reporting period.

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 and
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy projects.

2. Compliance Table

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

Current Status of projects as at October 2023: 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), Y: Compliant

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	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).	22.5 Mm3 of seabed material have been dredged under this approval. No dredging occurred in the current reporting period under this permit.	Y
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 placement 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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); b) Be submitted to the Department (and GBRMPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Long-term Spoil Disposal Plan for Future Stages of Dredging (Stages 1B and 2) was submitted to DCCEEW in July 2019. • The Plan is currently under review by GPC following comments from DCCEEW. • It is envisaged that the revised plan will be resubmitted to DCCEEW in 2024. • Stages 2, 3 and 4 of dredging will not commence until the approval of this plan. 	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>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;</p> <p>c) Be approved in writing by the Minister prior to the commencement of dredging of Stages 2, 3 or 4;</p> <p>d) Include a comprehensive assessment of all dredge material disposal alternatives; and</p> <p>Include an indicative timetable of future dredging required for Stages 2, 3 or 4.</p>		
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 dredge material has been disposed of in the GBRMP. No dredging and/or dredge material placement occurred in the current reporting period under this permit.	Y
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.	<p>Offshore disposal of capital dredge material is no longer permitted.</p> <p>The WBDDP Sea Dumping Permit expired on 20 October 2015.</p>	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).	The WBRA has not exceeded 300ha and 27m in height. Details were presented in the 2014 ACR.	Y
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 waters and storm-water run-off.	This activity (construction of the outer bund wall of the WBRA) was completed in 2011.	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Potential Acid Sulfate Soil (PASS) risk at the WBRA continues under an Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan (ASSMP) approved by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) on 14 May 2021. • The 2022 Groundwater Monitoring report, (Biannual Sampling January and December 2022) was submitted to DES on 11 April 2023 and acceptance received on 26 June 2023. • Monitoring of the 28 bores at the WBRA in 2022 has shown that both water levels and water quality parameters are within the normal range of variability. 	Y
10	The person taking the action must not undertake any dredge material rehandling.	No dredge material rehandling has been undertaken during dredging activities. No dredging operations were conducted during the current reporting period under this permit.	Y
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
14	Where construction and or dredging methods with lower	No construction activities or dredging occurred in the current	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	environmental impacts are identified to be practical, these methods must be implemented.	reporting period.	
15	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Operating procedures to minimize injury to, or mortality of, EPBC Act listed threatened or migratory species from dredging activities or construction activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WBDDP Dredge Management Plan (DMP) took into consideration all compliance under this condition. This was reported in the 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). 	y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>e) Details of responsible parties for each action described in the DCMP;</p>		

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Details were reported in 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	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 approved by the Minister in writing prior to the completion and submission of the Water Quality 	<p>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.</p> <p>The DTRP is no longer functional.</p>	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	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.	The DTRP is no longer functional.	NA
Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQMP)			
21	Prior to the commencement of dredging activities, the person	The activity was conducted under an approved Water Quality	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Management Plan (WQMP). Details were presented in the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 ACRs.</p> <p>In a written agreement with DES, the (WQMP) has been placed into a dormant stage until further dredging occurs.</p>	
22	<p>The primary objectives of the proposed water quality monitoring program must be to protect sensitive marine ecosystems by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not relevant in the current reporting period. • 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. • The last annual seagrass monitoring under the WQMP was conducted in 2018. • From 2019 onwards seagrass assessment in the Port of Gladstone continues under the Long-term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan. (Please refer 2011 to 2019 Environmental Performance Reports (EPRs) for details). 	NA
23	<p>In order to meet the objectives at condition 22, the WQMP must include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); d) Monitoring and reporting must be consistent with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not relevant in the current reporting Period. • Compliance with 23 a-n was demonstrated in 2011-2019 ACRs and EPRs. 	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>National Water Quality Management Strategy Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (2000) or subsequent versions thereof;</p> <p>e) Must be consistent with the Water Quality Guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (2009) or subsequent versions thereof;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>g) Measurement of water quality conditions at reference locations and in the vicinity of dredging and other project related activities ('exposed' locations);</p> <p>h) Development of a trigger or triggers for management action is when impacts are observed in areas expected to be impacted by dredge activities;</p> <p>i) Development of a trigger or triggers for management actions when impacts are observed in areas where they were not predicted;</p> <p>j) Hydrodynamic and plume modelling during dredging, to assist the validation of water quality predictions associated with dredging and / or related operations;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>l) A description of methodology including:</p> <p>i) QA / QC for measurement of water quality conditions;</p> <p>ii) Consideration to be given to continuous and</p>		

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>real-time (eg., via telemetry and spot sampling by field personnel) measurements of turbidity and / or light attenuation at multiple depths;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Consideration of non-project related factors that may also affect water quality; iv) Visual techniques (e.g. aerial photography); v) Methods for monitoring the dispersion of re-suspended 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 procedures and the water quality monitoring program. These actions must be linked to the DCMP; o) Mapping and assessing key significant and sensitive receptors, including but not limited to seagrass beds and coral reefs. The monitoring program must 		

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	No data request for any reports pertaining to the WBDDP was received during the current reporting period.	NA
	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 shorebirds and one a scientist with expertise in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 25a-c: The ERMP and Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel (ERMPAP) have been functional until October 2022. • Condition 25d: The current version of the ERMPAP Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on 20 October 2015. 	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>tropical marine ecology;</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>		
26	<p>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.</p>	<p>No ERMPAP meetings were held in the current reporting period.</p>	NA
	<p>Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program</p>		
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>All the monitoring programs listed in the ERMP came to an end in October 2022.</p> <p>The program will be reinstated once the next stage of dredging under the approval commences.</p>	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
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. Compliance was demonstrated in the 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. Compliance was demonstrated in the 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. All ERMP monitoring programs came to an end in October 2022.	Y
31	The results of the ERMP must be used to inform an adaptive management response to observed impacts or potential impacts identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Several longterm studies under the ERMP pertaining to nesting Flatback turtles, foraging Green Turtles, Humpback Dolphins, migratory shorebirds and tidal wetlands, came to an end in 2022. Each of these studies provided robust information on population dynamics, habitat usage, health condition and recovery of each of the species. Additionally the studies also provided an assessment of whether any impacts from the WBDDP could be determined (details in EPR 2022). Recommendations for future monitoring were also included in the reports. These final project reports addressed the objective of the ERMP Synthesis report, so a standalone ERMP synthesis report was deemed to a duplication of reporting and hence not commissioned. 	Y
32	The ERMP must be reviewed and revised (if appropriate) and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised ERMP was submitted to DCCEEW for approval on 	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	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.	<p>11 January 2021 which included all projects recommended by the ERMPAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval was received on 17 February 2021. 	
33	<p>Ecosystem and Research Monitoring Programme The ERMP must include, but not be limited to, the following: <u>Marine Megafauna</u></p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) Determine measurable population characteristics for key species before the start of dredging and develop appropriate indicators to monitor population changes.</p> <p>(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 relevant, associated pressure impacts; light spill; water quality reduction; decreased access to intertidal foreshore habitat; increased sedimentation; displacement</p> <p>(d) Identify potentially suitable habitats for key megafauna in the region at an ecological scale appropriate for megafauna species.</p> <p>(e) Determine the utilisation and significance of The Narrows for megafauna, and what effects the project may have on utilisation of this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The progress of the ERMP have been reported in the Annual EPRs between 2011 and 2022. Total expenditure on marine megafauna and habitats as at 31 October 2023 is \$4,091,634 Total expenditure on shorebirds as at 31 October 2023 is \$ 2,559,030 	y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>(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.</p> <p><u>Migratory Shorebirds</u></p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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).</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(j) Monitoring the effect of those port development activities potentially affecting migratory shorebirds, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredge vessel movement • Pile driving • Construction dredging • Bund wall construction during dredging • Construction of the bund wall 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling of the reclamation area <p>And will address matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise impacts • Light spill • Water quality reduction • Decreased access to intertidal foreshore habitat • Displacement <p>(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.</p> <p><u>Seagrass</u></p> <p>(l) Annual long term seagrass monitoring surveys of seagrass distribution and abundance in the Western Basin and Port Curtis.</p> <p>(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</p>		
	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.	An ERMP was functional between 2011 and 2022. Progress on the ERMP was reported in the EPR and ACR from 2011 to 2022.	Y
35	The person taking the action must make the findings, including related data, of any or all of these studies publicly	No request for information on the ERMP was received by GPC in the current reporting period.	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	available upon request by any interested parties.		
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 progress of the ERMP have been reported in the Annual EPRs between 2011 and 2022.	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 2022-2023 will be submitted to the Minister on or before 2 December 2023.	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 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	A Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) was developed and 16 projects (5.1-5.16) identified to meet conditions under 38a to d. The BOS was submitted to DCCEEW on 5 July 2012. Approval was received from DCCEEW on 18 July 2012. A total spent of \$3,158,367 has been incurred as at 31 October 2023 for the BOS projects. The status of these projects as at 31 October 2023 is: 5.1 Signage and Education: The following commitments have been made in the current reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish of the Month Competition (April-December 2023): Contestants are required to submit their favourite 	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>systems, wetland rehabilitation projects and water quality improvement programs;</p> <p>ii. Actions to reduce fisheries netting pressure in Port Curtis and in adjacent waters; and</p> <p>iii. Actions to reduce potential for coastal impacts such as commercial development in adjacent areas</p> <p>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;</p> <p>c) A Strategic Vessel Management plan for Port Curtis that must include, but not be limited to:</p> <p>i. Measures that will regulate boating speeds and movement in Port Curtis in perpetuity, including ongoing funding for enforcement of the program;</p> <p>ii. The establishment of 'go slow' zones; and</p> <p>iii. Establish roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>d) Development of a seagrass conservation plan that must include but not be limited to:</p> <p>i. A map clearly illustrating the areas to be protected including the Wiggins / Mud Island seagrass beds, seagrass beds east of Quoin Island and seagrass beds in Pelican Banks;</p> <p>ii. Measures to ensure that the seagrass beds within the Port are protected from ongoing and future Port activity; and</p> <p>iii. Commitments to ensure no further direct seagrass removal of the areas referred to in</p>	<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of colouring shopping bags promoting BiG 6 at Ecofest held on 4 June 2023 : The theme of Ecofest 2023 was – "Beat Plastic Pollution" and included educational workshops, talks and activities around this theme. (Figure 1c). • Sponsoring the Youth Engagement program at Boyne Tannum Hook up 2023 "Australia's biggest Family Fishing Competition". (Figures 1 d, e and f). The activity included engagement of youth ambassadors to conduct the "Learn to Fish" program. 50 children participated in the program. • Display of Educational Posters at Strategic locations (Figures 1g,h,): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nesting Turtles- during nesting season ○ Sustainable Fishing <p>5.2 Assessment of marine traffic: This project has been completed</p>	

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>38(d)i above, accounting for any increases in size of the mapped seagrass areas.</p> <p>e) The strategy must include key milestones, performance indicators, actions and timeframes for the completion of all offsets outlined in the strategy.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5.3 Assessment, implementation and compliance of go slow zones- The intent of this project is being met under Project 5.1 thorough promotion of “go slow for those below” messages.</p> <p>5.4 Support to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for marine animal strandings – No action required.</p> <p>5.5 Habitat enhancement and restoration actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further activities were conducted in 2023 <p>5.6 Stormwater pollution Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2a). • The units have been serviced once in the current reporting period (January 2023) 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. • About 5000 items were prevented from reaching the harbour through this initiative. • On an average 247 kg of litter (including organic matter) was prevented from reaching the marine environment through this initiative (Figures 2b, c, d). <p>5.7 Distribution, maintenance and monitoring of Tangler bins - This project has been completed</p>	

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
		<p>5.8 Coral mapping and restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2022, a total of 101 corals were affixed at two distinct sites, with 49 placed at Manning Reef and 52 at Seal Rocks. • Concurrently, the experimental plots underwent macroalgae removal. • Monitoring activities were carried out thrice within the initial six months (2022 and 2023) (Figures 3a,b, c). • Throughout the monitoring period, data on substrate photos and diver observations were systematically gathered to analyze alterations in benthic cover, recruit density, coral health, transplant survivorship, and macroalgal biomass. Additionally, fish communities were monitored using Remote Underwater Video technology. • Transplant survivorship exceeded 90% across all locations. <p>5.9 Integrated map of all protected areas and sensitive habitats in the region and wide bioregion - This project has been completed</p> <p>5.10 Environmentally Friendly Moorings program- This Project has been Completed.</p> <p>5.11 Development of a regional code of practice for Inshore netting (Gladstone Region) - This project has been completed</p> <p>5.12 Funding of DAFF Boating and Fisheries Patrol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intent of this project is being addressed through the Education and Awareness program 	

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
		<p>5.13 Acquisition of High Value Land to protect from Development- This project has been completed</p> <p>5.14 Upper and lower catchment water quality monitoring and improvement of water quality in the Boyne or Calliope Rivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently GPC is meeting the intent of this project through Project 5.6- Stormwater Litter Control – which has been successful in preventing organic matter and litter (including cigarette butts and plastic foils) from reaching the Gladstone Harbour. <p>5.15 Provide funding for a proposed marine rehabilitation facility in Gladstone- This project has been completed.</p> <p>5.16 Declared Fish Habitat Investigations in the Central Queensland Region - This project has been completed.</p> <p>38b: Under the Marine Fish Habitat Offset, conditioned under the Co-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.</p> <p>As confirmed by DCCEEW, 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.</p>	

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
		<p>38c: A Vessel Operations Procedure for Marine Megafauna Protection for GPC owned vessels has been developed by GPC.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>38d(ii) An account of ongoing monitoring programs in the harbour to assess recovery and resilience of seagrass.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>38e. The approved BOS includes key milestones, performance indicators actions and estimated timeframes for the completion of all offsets outlined in the Strategy.</p>	

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
		38f: The BOS was prepared with the advice of the DTRP and the ERMPAP.	
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.	No request for any of the BOS reports was received by GPC in the current reporting period.	NA
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. Details were reported in the 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. Details were reported in the 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. Details were reported in the 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 DCCEEW 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	No notification has been received from the Minister to date.	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	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		
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. Details were reported in the 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 twelfth report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023. a) The report is endorsed by GPC CEO, Craig Haymes 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 DCCEEW.	Y
47	The Reports described at condition 46 must be provided until the closure of the action.	The current report is the thirteenth report submitted since the date of approval and covers activities occurring from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.	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	All currently implemented versions of the relevant plans have received approval from DCCEEW.	Y

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	<p>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.</p>		
49	<p>All plans, reports, programs or strategies (however described) required under this approval must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	This requirement was addressed in the 2012 ACR.	NA

Condition No.	Requirement	Compliance Comments-(01/11/2022-31/10/2023)	Compliance Rating
	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. Substantive Reports pertaining to the ERMP and the BOS are available on the GPC ERMP webpage <u>Resources - Gladstone Ports Corporation (gpcl.com.au)</u>	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 2022 to 31 October 2023.	NA

Attachment 1

Photographs from the BOS Projects:

FISH OF THE MONTH WINNER

Congratulations Kenzee Eccles on catching this Sweetlip!

Please contact Gladstone News to arrange collection of your \$50 voucher.

DID YOU KNOW?

The common name of the sweetlips (family Haemulidae) refers to the thick, blubbery looking lips of these fish. There are 145 species worldwide with 21 species in Australia.



Name: Kenzee Eccles
Fish Species: Sweetlip
Location: Gladstone Harbour

Gladstone Ports Corporation
Growth, prosperity, community.

Want a chance to win?
Scan the QR code to enter!

gpcl.com.au

Terms and Conditions apply.

FISH OF THE MONTH WINNER

Congratulations Dan Tallon on catching this Black Jewfish!

Please contact Gladstone News to arrange collection of your \$50 voucher.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some fish have figured out impressive ways of obtaining food, like squirting jets of water from their mouth to capture insects above the surface and using rocks to open shells.



Name: Dan Tallon
Fish Species: Black Jewfish
Location: Facing Island

Gladstone Ports Corporation
Growth, prosperity, community.

Want a chance to win?
Scan the QR code to enter!

gpcl.com.au

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Figures 1 (a,b) -Project 5.1- Winners of Fishing Competition



Figure 1c Project 5.1- GPC Stall at Ecofest promoting the Big 6



Figure 1d- Project 5.1 Infographics from the 2022 Boyne Tannum Hook- up Event



Figure- 1e-Project 5.1- Boyne Tannum Hook-Up Learn to Fish Participants



Figure 1f- Project 5.1- Boyne Tannum Hook-Up Colouring Competition prize distribution



Project 5.1 Figure 1g: Billboard Sign displayed during Turtle Nesting Season



Project 5.1 Figure 1h: Billboard Sign to promote Sustainable Fishing



Figure 2a: Locations of Drain Buddies (Stormwater Pollutant Traps)

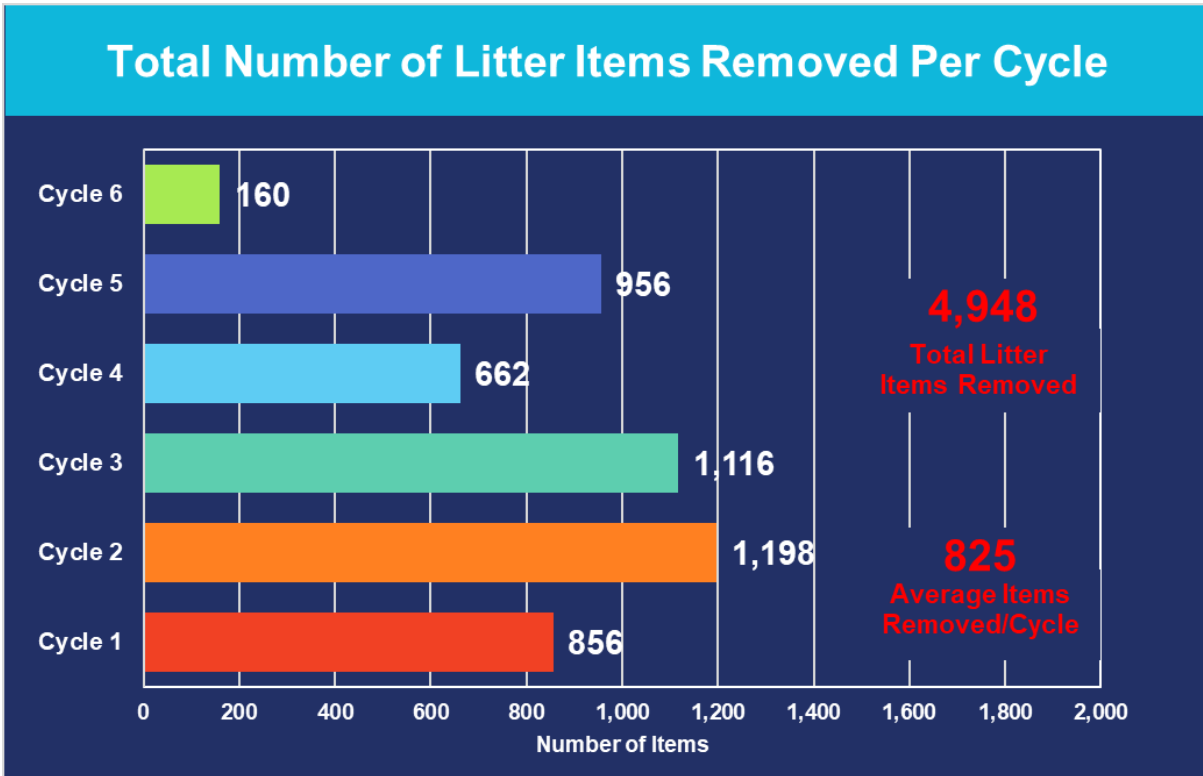


Figure 2b: Total Number of Litter Items Removed Per Cycle

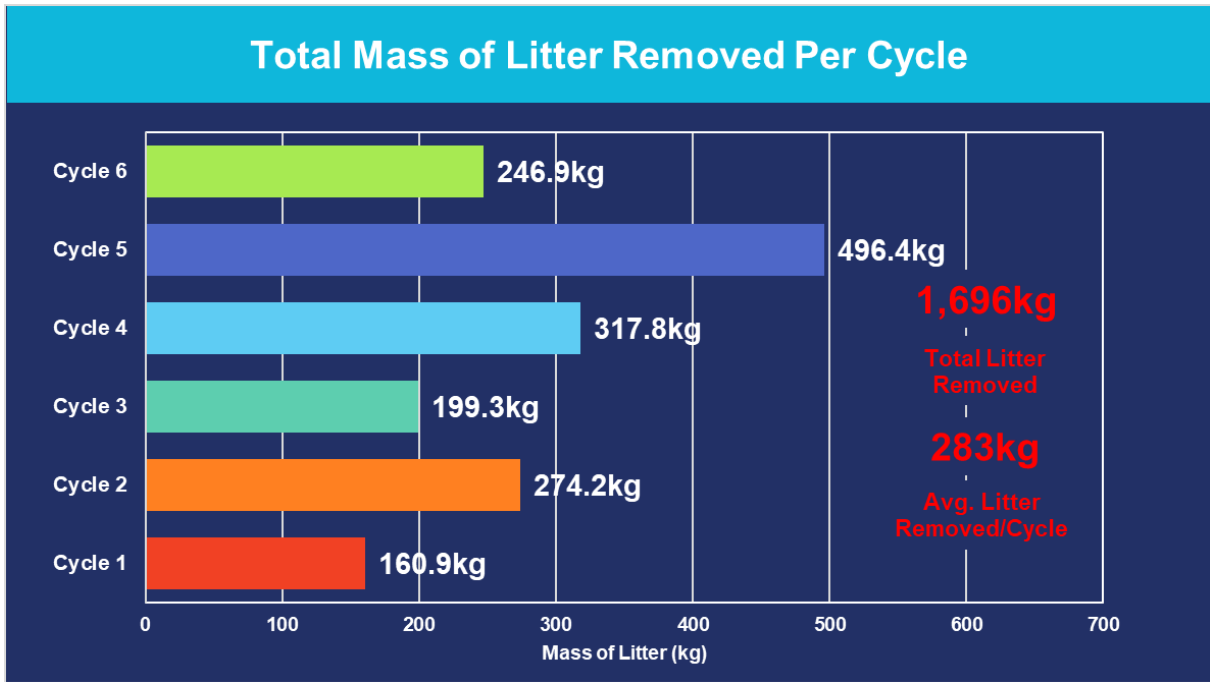


Figure 2c: Total Mass of Litter Removed per Cycle



**PIPE MANAGEMENT
PMA • AUSTRALIA**

Asset 06

Service Status: Serviced	% Full: 100%	Litter / Organics / Sediment: % / % / %
Asset Condition: Good	Coordinates: -23.833987, 151.243824	Notes/Repairs/Maintenance: .

Before Service



After Service



Litter Separated



Figure 2d: Servicing record from asset No 06 showing before-after condition and the litter collected.



Figure 3a: Diver cementing a coral fragment with a re-useable caulking gun

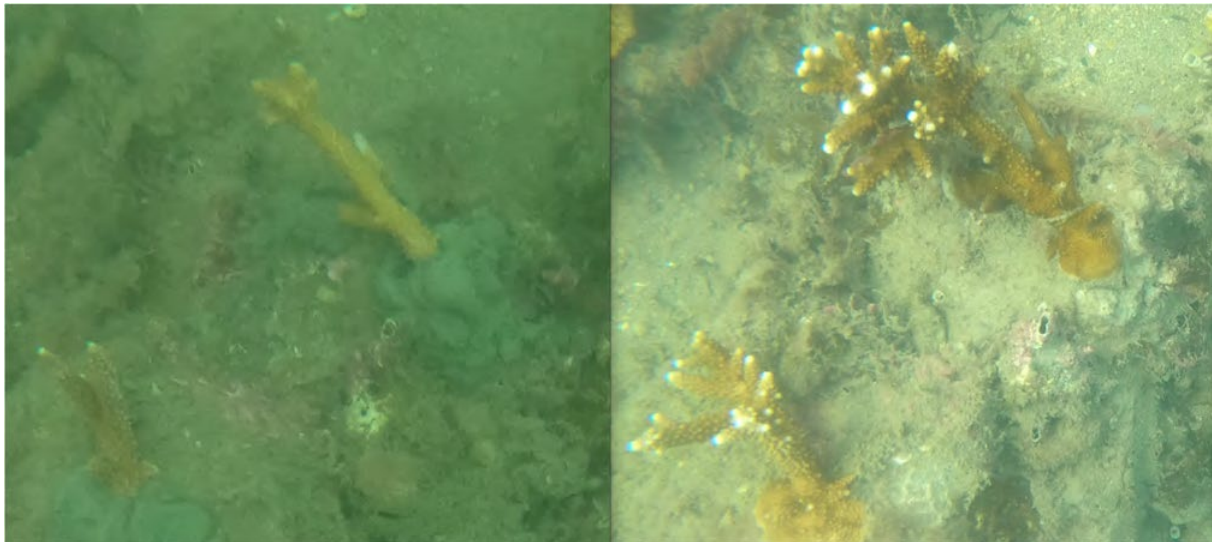


Figure 3b: Rapid successful growth of transplanted coral fragments from E0 (left) to E6 (right)



Figure 3c Transplanted corals smothered by *A. taxiformis* (left) and appearing relatively healthy immediately after macroalgal removal (right)

Attachment 2

Reports received in the current reporting Period:

1. Stormwater Pollution Control Project-Pollution Monitoring Report Cycle 6- March 2023
(#1866174)
2. Restoration of Corals in the BOS region – 6 Month Report -March 2023 (#171876241)
3. Annual Western Basin Reclamation Area Groundwater Monitoring Report-2022 (# 1863640)