

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee Meeting – Port of Gladstone

Wednesday 24 June 2020

Attendees: Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (AWE), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Department of Environment and Science (DES), Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), Gladstone Regional Council (GRC), James Cook University (JCU), Central Queensland University (CQU), Port Curtis Coral Coast People (PCCC), Gladstone Conservation Council (GCC), Gladstone Area Promotion and Development (GAPDL), Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Wiggins Island Coal Export terminal (WICET), Gladstone Power Station (NRG)

Apologies: Volunteer Marine Rescue

Location: Skype

Item	Description	Action Required
Meeting Open	Meeting opened at 10.04am by Chairperson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to country Attendees and Apologies Conflicts of Interest Agenda overview	Nil
TOR Update	An overview was provided of the review of Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR is available on www.gpcl.com.au/tacc	Nil
TACC Role	Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) is a maintenance dredging consultative group, comprising of recognised stakeholders. The TACC role and responsibilities can be found at www.gpcl.com.au/tacc	Nil
Long Term Maintenance Dredging Maintenance Plan (LMDMP)	Aligns with the Maintenance Dredging Strategy and Long Term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan Guidelines. TACC is an appropriate mechanism to engage with stakeholders as part of the continuous improvement of the LMDMP.	Nil
Operational Update	GPC's annual maintenance dredging at the Port of Gladstone (231,855 cubic metres) was conducted successfully over a period of 33 days from 14 November 2019 to 18 December 2019. All loads to East Banks Sea Disposal Site (EBSDS).	Nil

	There were nil incidents, nil complaints and no non-conformances with approvals.	
Operational Update	Marina Maintenance Dredging 2020 Every five years there is a dredging campaign in the marina, which is currently underway and will continue until mid-August.	Nil
Environmental Update	Compliance Water Quality Monitoring The compliance monitoring program is in real time and ran from 30 October 2019 to 2 January 2020. During the monitoring there was no turbidity or Benthic Photosynthetically Active Radiation (BPAR) exceedances. Turbidity was low throughout monitoring program, but there were some oscillations due to Spring tides – more water movement. There was a prolonged period where the light was below the threshold with 13 consecutive days with midday high tides and fouling which impacted the readings. There was no elevation of 95% Australian Water Quality Guidelines (AWQG) for metals. Question: What metals did you monitor for? Response: There was a range - aluminium, lead, copper, quite a broad range – mercury, nickel, zinc and Tributyltin (TBT). The report is on our website.	Nil
Environmental Update	Water Quality Monitoring Water quality monitoring falls under the LMDMP with the hypothesis: <i>Pollutant concentrations within dredge plumes at the loading and disposal sites do not reach levels where toxic effects or algal blooms could occur.</i> Three plume studies have been carried out. The most recent study in 2018 was presented to the TACC in 2019. This study supported the hypothesis and has been finalised. The final report is available our website.	Nil
Environmental Update	Marine Pest Survey The marine pest survey falls under the LMDMP with the hypothesis: <i>Maintenance dredging does not result in the introduction of marine pests into new environments within the port area.</i> GPC collaborated with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), in a pilot program using novel (for this application) molecular techniques. GPC used a combination of survey techniques and deployed settling arrays in four locations on four wharfs, as well as plankton tows at East Banks and RG Tanna Wharf (15 replicates per site). There were two deployments during the cold temperature months and also in the warmer waters.	Nil

	<p>The first results are back and there were no positive detections of invasive marine pests. GPC is awaiting the second set of results and the report by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Question: If there were positive detections how would you address the Hypothesis that it was maintenance dredging and not other sources?</p> <p>Response: If there were detections, it would be quite difficult to determine because of the vessel traffic in the harbour, so it would be difficult to determine whether it was the vessel, normal activity or the dredging.</p>	
Environmental Update	<p>Ambient Long Term Monitoring – Seagrass Survey 2019</p> <p>The seagrass survey is showing very good results for 2019. The overall score has improved from poor in 2017 to satisfactory in 2018 to good for 2019. Every year GPC carries out intertidal seagrass meadows surveys and every five years subtidal surveys are carried out.</p> <p>From last year meadows have improved from the Narrows to Rodds Bay. Most meadows are now in good or very good condition which is the best condition of seagrass in the past decade. JCU noted the seagrass meadows are responding to the lack of a major rain event, which has enabled the seagrass to prosper.</p> <p>However, Pelican Banks meadow remains in poor condition due to various factors, the main factor could be due to grazing pressure from dugongs and turtles.</p> <p>Question: Has the sea life populations, the dugongs and turtles – moved to Pelican Banks and is there some correlation?</p> <p>Response: It's not something that GPC monitors. JCU could offer their thoughts.</p> <p>JCU Response: JCU have been surveying and monitoring since 2002 and the seagrass condition is pretty amazing. It is a difficult question to answer though as the turtles in Gladstone don't tend to move very far and they feed in the same areas. The dugong most likely move around more, but it is very hard track due to low satellite tracking. Observations from the surveys indicates there are a lot of turtles and dugongs feeding up in those areas, and there is certainly a lot of sea grass there to support their feeding at Pelican Banks.</p>	Nil
Other Business	<p>Sustainable Sediment Management Update</p> <p>GPC presented the outcomes from sustainable sediment management project including the top seven (7) options. Four (4) of these options were presented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The LNG Terminal Sustainable In Channel Relocation</u> <p>The modelling showed it is feasible and a discussion was held around how this could be achieved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Offshore Beach Nourishment</u> 	Nil

	<p>The outer harbour has 92 - 98 % sand that could be relocated. Wild Cattle island has some erosion issues and there was discussion around what other locations could be suitable such as nourishing the Tannum Sands beach.</p> <p>3. <u>Habitat Restoration and Creation</u></p> <p>Discussion around the three most feasible locations, which were Quoin Island, Passage Island and Shoal Bay. The Shoal Bay option was expensive. The Quoin Island location dropped into the channel to the south not the north. Passage Island was the most likely with potential benefit to increase the size of the bank. The main challenge is that there is such good seagrass at the moment, with discussion around whether there is the need to improve at this time.</p> <p>4. <u>Marina Sustainable In-channel Relocation</u></p> <p>Discussion around what GPC can do with marina material, particularly what GPC can do more regularly, rather than dredging to land every five years. This project would be stand alone and will be a trial to be discussed with the regulators.</p> <p>Question: Were you planning to narrow the four options to one or just choose one option to move forward with?</p> <p>Response: A pre-lodgement has been planned for the first option. The other three (3) options will considered further and discussed with regulators before 2021 maintenance dredging.</p>	
General Questions	<p>No general questions, feedback or suggestions.</p> <p>Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation.</p>	Nil
Meeting closed	Meeting closed at 11.22am by Chairperson	Nil

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