

Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone

Issues Paper

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, has commissioned an independent review of environmental management arrangements and governance of the Port of Gladstone. The Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the 2012 decision of the World Heritage Committee regarding the ongoing protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage property (the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area).

The review is being undertaken by an independent panel comprising Ms Anthea Tinney (Chair), Professor Richard Kenchington, Dr Eva Abal, and Dr Ian Cresswell (Panelists), as appointed by the minister. Further information on the panel can be found at www.environment.gov.au/gladstonereview. Secretariat support to the panel is being provided by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department).

This paper provides background on some of the issues that will be considered by the review and general information about the conduct of the review, including advice on how interested individuals and parties can participate. This paper should be read in conjunction with the review's Terms of Reference, which are available at: www.environment.gov.au/gladstonereview.

1. Background

Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone

At its 36th meeting in June 2012, the World Heritage Committee issued Decision 36 COM 7B.8 relating to the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property. In its decision, the Committee requests the State Party (i.e. the Australian Government) to:

“undertake an independent review of the management arrangements for Gladstone Harbour, that will result in the optimisation of port development and operation in Gladstone Harbour and on Curtis Island, consistent with the highest internationally recognised standards for best practice commensurate with iconic World Heritage status.”

The Committee also requested the government take note of the findings of the joint World Heritage Centre/International Union for Conservation of Nature reactive monitoring mission undertaken in March 2012 and address the mission's recommendations in its future protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The outcomes of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone will be made available to the World Heritage Committee to inform its ongoing consideration of the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. It is intended that the review will also inform future decision-making under national environmental law, in particular the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone

At its 35th meeting in June 2011, the World Heritage Committee issued Decision 35 COM 7B.10, which urged the State Party (i.e. the Australian Government) to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the entire World Heritage Area.

To address the World Heritage Committee decision, the Australian and Queensland Governments are currently conducting a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone in accordance with section 146 of the EPBC Act. Strategic assessments enable a 'big-picture' approach to environment and heritage protection that provides certainty in the long term, by determining the areas to be protected from development and areas where sustainable development can go, the type of development that will be allowed and the conditions under which development may proceed.

The comprehensive strategic assessment will help identify, plan for and manage existing and emerging risks to ensure ongoing protection and management of the natural values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone. This will be achieved by:

- investigating the adequacy of the existing management arrangements for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and
- assessing current and future development policies and planning in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the adjacent coastal zone and analysing likely direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

The outcomes and recommendations of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone will also be important considerations in the finalisation of the comprehensive strategic assessment. Further information on the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area can be found at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/notices/assessments/great-barrier-reef.html>

2. Outstanding universal value

The concept of outstanding universal value is the central idea of the World Heritage Convention and is fundamental to the review's considerations. The 2012 Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Committee (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>) define outstanding universal value to mean cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. Sites on the World Heritage List are places that are important to and belong to everyone, regardless of where they are located. They are an irreplaceable legacy that the global community wants to protect for the future.

Broadly, the definition of outstanding universal value follows the common sense interpretation of the words:

Outstanding: Properties should be exceptional, or superlative – they should be the most remarkable places on earth.

Universal: Properties need to be outstanding from a global perspective. World heritage listing does not aim to recognise properties that are remarkable from solely a national or regional perspective.

Value: What makes a property outstanding and universal is its “value”, or the natural and/or cultural worth of a property. This value is determined based on standards and processes established under the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention.

Criteria

There are 10 criteria for outstanding universal value, six cultural and four natural. The criteria for outstanding universal value have evolved over time. However, the underlying concepts have remained stable. Properties must also meet requirements for integrity (for natural properties) and/or authenticity (for cultural properties) and protection and management requirements.

The Great Barrier Reef was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981 for all four of the natural criteria specified in the World Heritage Convention - criteria (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x). The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area also meets the requirements for integrity, meaning that its natural attributes are considered to be whole and intact. In addition, the property was deemed to have an adequate system of protection and management to ensure its safeguarding.

Outstanding universal value in the Port of Gladstone

Examples of attributes of the Great Barrier Reef’s outstanding universal value that are present within the Port of Gladstone and surrounds include:

- Criterion vii (contains superlative natural phenomena and areas of aesthetic importance)
 - the vast extent of the reef and island systems which produces an unparalleled aerial vista
 - coastal and adjacent islands with mangrove systems of exceptional beauty
 - migrating dolphins, dugong, sea turtles and seabirds.
- Criterion viii (outstanding examples of stages of earth’s history)
 - coral reefs
 - mangroves
 - dune systems.
- Criterion ix (outstanding examples of ongoing evolution)
 - living coral colonies
 - feeding and breeding grounds for international migratory birds, cetaceans, mammals and sea turtles.
- Criterion x (important habitats for conservation of biological diversity)
 - habitats for species of conservation significance
 - species of plants and animals of conservation significance.

3. Participating in the Review

Call for submissions

Public submissions are a very important part of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. Submissions are invited from individuals or parties who have an interest in the issues to be considered under the Terms of Reference. Submissions are required to be provided by 20 March 2013 to ensure the panel has sufficient opportunity to review the material.

Submissions should be in response to the Terms of Reference either as a whole, or with respect to specific items. The review's website (www.environment.gov.au/gladstonereview) contains information on making submissions.

The issues described in this paper do not seek to limit or define matters that may be pertinent to the review. Submissions should address all matters that authors consider relevant to the review's Terms of Reference.

Privacy and confidentiality

The department is committed to dealing with personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act). The Privacy Act defines personal information as information or an opinion, whether true or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion.

The personal information you provide us will be used for the purpose of the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone, as described in the terms of reference. Your submission should not include personal information about a third party without their consent.

Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and his office.

Submissions to the review will be published on the review's website as soon as possible after the close of the public submission period. Personal information will be removed as far as possible but some may be published. If submitters believe they have a good reason for keeping all or part of their submission confidential, it should be clearly stated in the submission. Alternately, submitters may contact the review secretariat by emailing GladstoneReview@environment.gov.au to obtain more information on this matter.

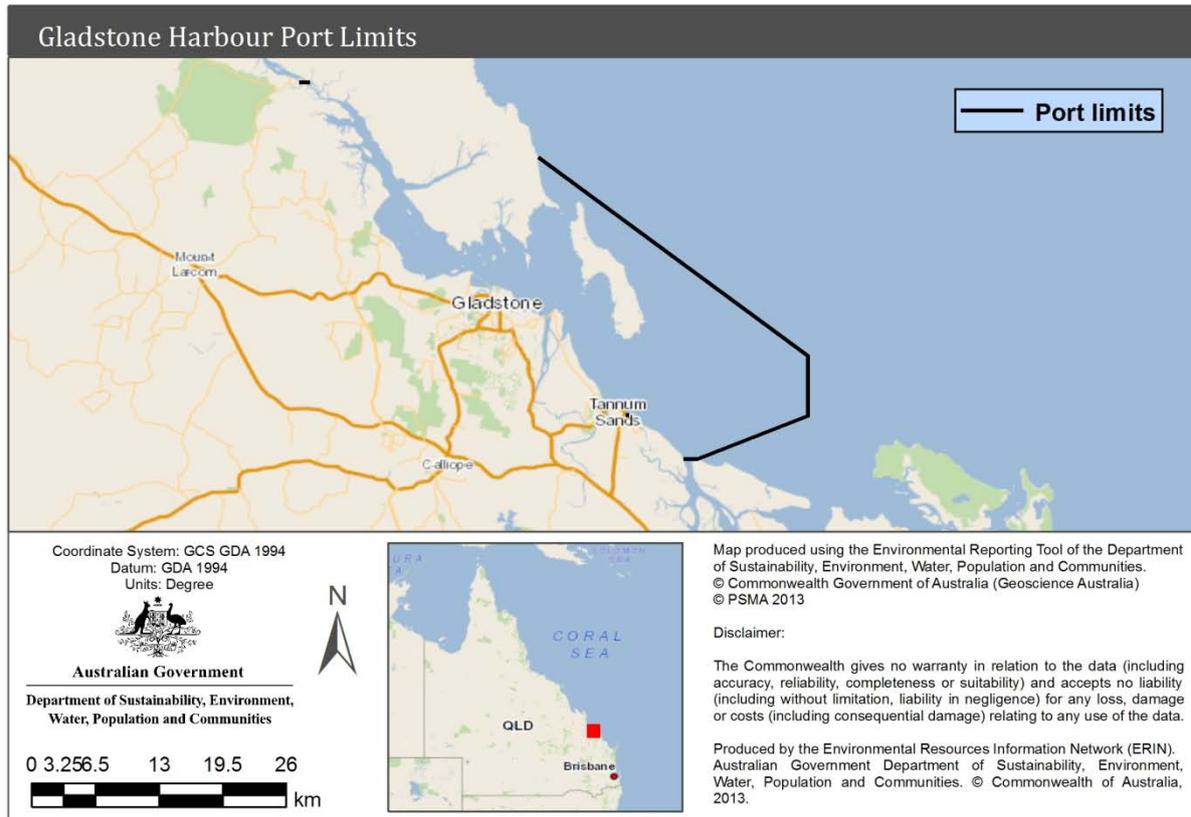
The department may also be authorised or required by law to disclose the submissions in the future including where an application is made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Commonwealth) and where the department has been served with a valid search warrant.

Other input

The Chair of the review may, at her discretion, use other means to obtain information to support the work of the review including meetings with individuals and groups, commissioning new information and seeking other expert advice.

4. The Port of Gladstone and Curtis Island

The Port of Gladstone is located on the central coast of Queensland, at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The port is naturally deep and sheltered by islands, including Curtis Island and Facing Island.



The Port of Gladstone limits lie within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and partially within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Port had been operating for many years by the time the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area was listed in 1981, as commercial activities at the Port began in the 1920s. Facing Island and Curtis Island are also located within the World Heritage Area, as are many of the other smaller islands within the Port.

At 46 600 hectares, Curtis Island is the largest of the 600 continental islands within the Great Barrier Reef. It is separated from the mainland by an estuarine passage known as The Narrows. Although large sections of the island are unspoilt and remote (i.e. Curtis Island National Park, located at the north-eastern end of the island), the island is the site of a permanent settlement and some areas have been previously cleared. Cattle grazing has also occurred on parts of the island for more than 100 years and the island attracts relatively low levels of tourism activity.

There are several other smaller islands within the limits of the Port of Gladstone, including the Passage Islands within The Narrows, Wiggins Islands, Quoin Island, South Trees Island and Boyne Island, to name a few. The islands are subject to varying levels of development.

The Gladstone region contains the single largest concentration of major industry and port facilities in Queensland. These industries are reliant on the import and export of material through the Port of Gladstone. In addition to these existing industries, several developments are being undertaken in accordance with Australian and Queensland Government environmental approvals.

The Port of Gladstone is managed by Gladstone Ports Corporation, a state government-owned corporation. The Ports Corporation's 50 Year Strategic Plan (July 2012) envisages the Port of Gladstone expanding substantially over coming years to accommodate increased demand for coal, liquefied natural gas and other commodity exports to become a strategic port

centre handling 250 to 300 million tonnes of cargo each year (i.e. three to four times current throughput).

The Queensland Government has established the Gladstone State Development Area to accommodate this expected future industrial development. This encompasses approximately 22 000 hectares on the mainland north of Gladstone and additional land allocated on Curtis Island for liquefied natural gas development and an environmental management precinct.

5. Existing, current and proposed development in the Port of Gladstone

The Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest multi-cargo port. Throughput of the Port (i.e. exports and imports) totalled approximately 76 million tonnes in 2010-11. Major export commodities include coal, alumina, aluminium and cement/clinker. Bauxite, caustic soda, petroleum products and liquid ammonia were the major imports.

Coal is by far the Port of Gladstone's current largest export commodity, representing approximately 70 per cent of total cargo throughput. In 2010-11, 53.2 million tonnes of coal were exported through the RG Tanna and Barney Point terminals. When constructed, the Wiggins Island Coal Terminal will double the coal export capacity at the Port of Gladstone.

Three liquefied natural gas plants are currently being constructed within the State Development Area on the south-eastern end of Curtis Island and approvals are being sought under national and state law for a fourth liquefied natural gas plant to be constructed in that area. The ultimate volume of liquefied natural gas to be exported from these facilities is estimated at about 35 – 45 million tonnes per year.

Gladstone Ports Corporation has been granted national and state government approval to undertake an extensive capital dredging project in the Port of Gladstone Western Basin to facilitate development of emerging industries in the region such as liquefied natural gas. Dredging activities involve the deepening and widening of existing channels and swing basins and the creation of new channels, swing basins and berth pockets. In total, up to 46 million cubic metres of material will be dredged and disposed at onshore and offshore disposal sites under the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project (Stages 1 to 4). The Australian and State Government approvals for the project are subject to many detailed conditions to protect the environment.

The Gladstone Ports Corporation has also applied for approval to duplicate the existing Gatcombe and Golding Cutting Channel to create a two-way shipping passage in the outer Gladstone Harbour. Dredging, which is planned to occur over a 20 month period commencing in 2014–15, will require the disposal of approximately 12 million cubic metres of seabed material to an approved offshore and/or onshore spoil ground. The proposal will be assessed through an environmental impact statement under the EPBC Act.

Table 1 below lists proposals in and adjoining the Port of Gladstone that have been approved under the EPBC Act since it came into force in 2000 and those that are currently being assessed under the Act. Further information about these developments can be found at www.environment.gov.au/epbc/notices/index.html. Public submissions may identify other developments for the consideration of the panel.

Table 1 Developments requiring approval under the EPBC Act

Consented developments (2000–present)	Proposals submitted for approval
Aldoga Aluminium Smelter Gladstone (EPBC 2001/160)	Arrow CSG LNG Plant and High-pressure Gas Pipeline (EPBC 2009/5007 & 2009/5008)
Central Queensland Gas Pipeline, Moranbah – Gladstone (EPBC 2005/2059)	Yarwun Coal Terminal (EPBC 2012/6348)
Wiggins Island Coal Terminal (EPBC 2005/2374)	Gatcombe and Golding Cutting Channel Duplication (EPBC 2012/6558)
HPAL Nickel Plant (EPBC 2005/2376)	
Santos GLNG Project (EPBC 2008/4096, 2008/4058, 2008/4057)	
Queensland Gas Company QLNG (pipeline, LNG plant and offshore facilities) (EPBC 2008/4399, 2008/4401 and 2008/4402)	
Queensland Gas Company and British Gas, Shipping Activity Associated with the QLD Curtis LNG Project (2008/4405)	
Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project (EPBC 2009/4904)	
Australia Pacific LNG Project (pipeline, LNG plant and marine facilities) (EPBC 2009/4976 and 2009/4977)	
Arrow Energy, Construction of a high pressure buried gas pipeline, Kogan to Gladstone, QLD (2009/5029)	

6. Environmental concerns

The World Heritage Committee has expressed concern about the potential impact of coastal developments in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the potentially significant impact on the property's outstanding universal value. The Committee also previously expressed extreme concern about the approval of liquefied natural gas processing and port facilities on Curtis Island within the World Heritage Property.

The Environment of the Port of Gladstone

Under the EPBC Act, the following Matters of National Environmental Significance are relevant to the consideration of proposals in the Gladstone Harbour and Curtis Island area:

- Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- National Heritage places
- Nationally threatened species and ecological communities
- Migratory species
- Commonwealth marine areas

There are several listed threatened species, migratory species and threatened ecological communities known, likely or potentially present in the Gladstone area. These include whales, turtles and dugong.

Gladstone Harbour and Curtis Island are located within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Consequently, protection of the outstanding universal value is an important consideration under national environmental law for the assessment and approval of proposed development activities in the region.

The waters of Gladstone Harbour are generally turbid with higher turbidity levels in the summer wet season when rivers discharge high sediment loads. Coastal areas within and adjoining the Port of Gladstone are comprised of a variety of habitats including soft substrate, reefs, saltmarsh, mangroves, intertidal creeks, coral, macroalgae and seagrass meadows. These habitats support a variety of species and contain areas of high conservation value.

Extensive seagrass communities occur within Gladstone Harbour and the surrounding region. Seagrass meadows in Port Curtis and Rodds Bay are the only known major areas of seagrass between Hervey Bay (170 kilometres south) and Shoalwater Bay (170 kilometres north). The value of seagrasses in the Port of Gladstone area to dugong has been recognised by the declaration of the Rodds Bay Dugong Protection Area which encompasses the majority of the port limit area and Rodds Bay to the south of the Port. The health of seagrass is important for turtles and dugong.

The south-eastern beaches of Curtis Island and eastern beaches of Facing Island are recognised as important, consistent and stable medium-density nesting and breeding areas for flatback turtles. Curtis Island is a low density rookery for green turtles. Marine plants, especially seagrass and algae, are the principal food for green turtles in eastern Australia.

Concerns

Broadly, concern has been raised by the World Heritage Committee over development activities at the Port of Gladstone and their potential to impact the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Activities of particular concern include the development on Curtis Island, increased shipping, dredging and sea dumping activities. Concerns have also been raised by commercial fishers and other parties about the status of fish health within the Port.

Environmental groups have raised concerns over the impacts of increased shipping in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Concerns particularly relate to risks of operational and accidental pollution from increasing numbers of ships travelling through the reef with the possibility of groundings and oil and cargo spills. Groups have also raised concerns about capital and maintenance dredging operations in the Port of Gladstone which result in the temporary generation of turbidity plumes and consequent impacts on benthic ecosystems including seagrasses through sedimentation and light attenuation.

There have also been concerns from the local fishing industry around the potential impacts of dredging operations in relation to observed fish illness. These concerns relate to the potential for mobilisation of contaminants from dredged sediments to affect marine organisms, including commercial fishing species.

In October 2011 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority reported a significant increase in the number of dugong and turtle deaths in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Strandings of marine turtles also increased dramatically in 2011. The unprecedented number of green turtles

and dugongs stranding and dying along the Queensland coastline in 2011 led to widespread media interest and public alarm.

An important consideration for the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone is examining whether, and to what extent, these environmental concerns are related to consented development activities, having regard to other potential contributory factors, including extreme weather events.

7. Current monitoring and management arrangements and initiatives

There are several key management, monitoring and reporting programs and arrangements within the Port of Gladstone and surrounds that are relevant to the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. For example, the approvals for major development projects in the Port have been subject to detailed and comprehensive conditions to manage impacts on the environment, including monitoring and management measures.

The review will consider a range of monitoring and management initiatives in their deliberations. There are a variety of initiatives underway at various stages. Of particular note, the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership is a new important initiative seeking to maintain and improve the health of the Gladstone Harbour. The work proposed under this partnership is likely to be directly relevant to the issues to be considered in the review.

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

The Queensland Premier announced on 4 May 2012 the proposed establishment of a partnership agreement to ensure the ongoing monitoring and improvement of Gladstone Harbour and its surrounding catchments. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership proposes a collaborative approach to monitoring and managing ecosystem health, building upon and aligning current efforts.

The partnership will develop and implement a coordinated ecosystem health monitoring program. The partnership proposal envisages the development of a Healthy Harbour Report Card that would synthesise data from scientists and partners and provide a shared understanding for the estuarine and marine systems. More information about the partnership is available at www.ehp.qld.gov.au/gladstone/healthy-harbour.

Monitoring and Management Plans

Monitoring and management plans required as part of the conditions of approval for developments within the Port of Gladstone. For example, an extensive Water Quality Management Plan has been instigated for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project in accordance with the conditions of the EPBC Act approval. The purpose of the plan is to manage potential ecological and water quality impacts (turbidity) of the dredging and disposal of material associated with the project.

Dredge Technical Reference Panel

The Dredge Technical Reference Panel was set up as an EPBC Act condition of approval for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project. It provides recommendations and scientific advice on water quality management and oversees development and implementation of the light-based approach to future water quality monitoring. The Dredge Technical Reference Panel comprises scientific experts in seagrass and benthic habitat, as well as management, regulators and dredge technical advisors.

The Dredge Technical Reference Panel routinely reviews seagrass health, water quality monitoring data and dredging practices and provides advice and (if deemed necessary) makes recommendations to government regulators for changes to water quality monitoring practices or the dredging management plan.

Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program

The Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program is an incorporated association of industry, government (local and state), research institutions and other stakeholders established to implement a cooperative monitoring program for assessing the ecosystem health of Port Curtis and to ensure the environmental sustainability of Gladstone Harbour. Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program participation is over and above the standard operational license conditions applying to respective industry operations.

The monitoring focuses on the following research themes: water quality (including biomonitoring and ecological indicators), intertidal health and seagrass health. Prior to 2010, the water quality program was carried out annually in winter. However, the program was expanded in early 2010 to examine conditions during the warmer monsoonal months of summer.

Port Curtis and Port Alma Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program

In accordance with EPBC Act conditions of approval for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project, the Port Curtis and Port Alma Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program has been developed to provide a detailed ecological understanding of the marine environment within Port Curtis and Port Alma, to provide advice on any potential impacts caused by the dredging program and to inform future management options and plans for these ecosystems.

The Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program covers the Port Curtis and Port Alma environment relevant to dredging activity being undertaken, in addition to areas used by marine megafauna and migratory shorebirds, including intertidal and subtidal wetlands (saltmarsh, mangroves, saltpans, mudflats and seagrass meadows).

As required by approval conditions, Gladstone Ports Corporation established a research advisory panel of independent scientific experts prior to and for the duration of the program to assist in the design and ongoing review of the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program, to support adaptive management of the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project. The Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel was approved by the Minister on 7 July 2011.

The Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel as four key objectives;

- To review the scope of monitoring and research programs.
- To monitor and review the outcomes of the monitoring and research programs.
- To provide advice on management of the port for good ecological outcomes.
- To provide advice on corrective actions or improvements to monitoring, research and data collation.

A triage approach has been adopted for prioritising projects. Following the cessation of existing seagrass monitoring programs, the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel will oversee annual seagrass monitoring for the remaining duration of the program. Management of seagrass monitoring and research is currently undertaken by the

Dredge Technical Reference Panel, with copies of reports and findings being forwarded to the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program Advisory Panel for review and comment.

8. Scope of the review

The review will work within a defined geographic boundary and scope, as detailed in the Terms of Reference.

The Review will consider and, if necessary, provide advice on any significant areas for improvement in relation to the following matters:

- a) *all previous review findings and information used as a basis for the current approvals for development in the Port of Gladstone;*

The review will consider the findings of previous reviews applicable to the defined geographic boundary (i.e. the Port of Gladstone and surrounds) and relevant to the purpose of the review (as defined in the Terms of Reference). Relevant reviews may be identified in public submissions. Information used as a basis for the current development approvals in the Port of Gladstone may be considered, for example, assessment and decision documentation and public submissions.

Existing developments that were determined likely to have significant impacts on outstanding universal value of the great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area include the Wiggins Island Coal Terminal, the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project and the three liquefied natural gas plants on Curtis Island.

- b) *current and future planning, development and management of the Port of Gladstone, having regard to the Gladstone Ports Corporation 50 Year Strategic Plan and associated developments and activities within Gladstone Harbour and adjoining land and offshore areas;*

The review will have regard to activities associated with the Gladstone Ports Corporation 50 Year Strategic Plan when considering the current and future management and development of the Port of Gladstone. This may include consideration of the cumulative environmental impacts of approved development proposals, those undergoing assessment and those proposed for the future to the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The developments listed in Table 1 above comprise some of the projects currently approved and undergoing assessment that may be included in this consideration.

- c) *environmental concerns in the Port of Gladstone, including the environmental performance of consented developments and operations and the impacts of other contributory factors, such as natural causes, catchment runoff, established industrial operations, urban expansion and floodplain changes;*

The review will consider the impacts of approved developments (see Table 1) and operations in the Port of Gladstone on the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This will include a range of environmental issues, such as impacts to fish health, seagrass, turtles, dugongs and other relevant concerns.

Other external factors also contribute to environmental issues within the port, such as natural causes, catchment runoff, established industrial operations, urban expansion and floodplain changes. Environmental resilience in light of these pressures will be considered by the review.

- d) *planning arrangements and design standards for the optimisation of port development and operation that accord with best practice environmental standards that may be applicable to ports in the Great Barrier Reef Region; and*

The review will consider port planning and design for the optimisation of port development according to best practice environmental standards. This will include consideration of arrangements and standards that could also be applicable to other ports within the Great Barrier Reef Region that minimise environmental impacts of port operations.

- e) *key current and proposed management, monitoring and reporting programs and arrangements within the Port of Gladstone and surrounds and report on their adequacy, and if necessary, provide advice on any significant areas for improvement. This analysis should consider any potential areas of duplication, perceived monitoring gaps, opportunities for integration and other areas where governance arrangements may be improved.*

There are several key management, monitoring and reporting programs and arrangements within the Port of Gladstone and surrounds discussed above. The review will consider a range of relevant programs in terms of their effectiveness in protecting the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The analysis may identify areas of duplication, monitoring gaps and potential improvements in governance arrangements.

9. Tips for compiling submissions

All submissions will be fully considered in the course of the review. However, in order to make sure your submission is fully effective in conveying your information, please see the following suggestions for compiling submissions.

1. Consider the scope and purpose of the review as outlined in the Terms of Reference. In particular, item 5 “Scope of Work” defines what the Independent review Panel will consider in preparation of the final report to the Minister.
2. Consider the geographic boundary of the review (item 4 in the Terms of Reference). While contributory factors outside the geographic boundary may be relevant to the scope of the review, please note that the review is focussed on issues within the defined geographic area.
3. Where your submission is supported by additional documentation or views of third parties, please make sure to either include that documentation as an appendix to your submission, or ensure the document is publicly available (e.g. on the internet) and sufficient reference information is provided so that it can be easily found by the Panel and others.
4. In order to ensure the review is conducted in a transparent manner, submissions will be published on the review’s website as soon as possible after the close of the public submission period. If submitters believe they have a good reason for keeping all or part of their submission confidential, it should be clearly stated in the submission cover sheet. Alternatively, submitters may contact the review secretariat by emailing GladstoneReview@environment.gov.au to obtain more information on this matter.
5. If your submission is an electronic file larger than five megabytes, please email your submission in a series of smaller parts or post it on a DVD.

6. Please include your preferred contact details in the submission coversheet provided on the website. It may be necessary to contact some submitters for follow-up consultation. However, please remember to keep the substantive text of your submission free of personal information relating to yourself or others.
7. Clearly title your input as a Submission to the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone. Submissions should be emailed to GladstoneReview@environment.gov.au or posted to:

Gladstone Review Secretariat
PO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The role of the Independent Review is to:

- a. Examine and report on the management arrangements for the Port of Gladstone, to respond to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 36 Com 7B.8.
- b. Advise the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on other relevant matters to inform decision-making under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, in response to the World Heritage Committee's decision, or any other matters as requested by the minister.

2. Background

The World Heritage Committee's Decision 36 Com 7B.8 requests the Australian Government to "undertake an independent review of the management arrangements for Gladstone Harbour, that will result in the optimisation of port development and operation in Gladstone Harbour and on Curtis Island, consistent with the highest internationally recognised standards for best practice commensurate with iconic World Heritage status".

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the Minister) has, following consultation with the Queensland Government, commissioned the conduct of the Independent Review in accordance with these Terms of Reference.

3. Membership

The Review will be undertaken by a Chair and up to 3 suitably qualified members, appointed by the Minister.

4. Geographic Boundary

The geographic scope of the Review will include the Port of Gladstone¹ and offshore areas that may be used for the disposal of dredge material or may be otherwise affected directly or indirectly by port development within the Port of Gladstone.

5. Scope of Work

The Review will consider and, if necessary, provide advice on any significant areas for improvement in relation to the following matters:

¹ For the purposes of these Terms of Reference the term "Port of Gladstone" means the area defined by the Port of Gladstone Port Limits together with adjoining islands and landside areas, including reclamation areas, that support existing or consented industrial developments or are proposed to cater for future port-related industrial activities and supporting infrastructure.

- a) all previous review findings and information used as a basis for the current approvals for development in the Port of Gladstone;
- b) current and future planning, development and management of the Port of Gladstone, having regard to the Gladstone Ports Corporation 50 Year Strategic Plan and associated developments and activities within Gladstone Harbour and adjoining land and offshore areas;
- c) environmental concerns in the Port of Gladstone, including the environmental performance of consented developments and operations and the impacts of other contributory factors, such as natural causes, catchment runoff, established industrial operations, urban expansion and floodplain changes;
- d) planning arrangements and design standards for the optimisation of port development and operation that accord with best practice environmental standards that may be applicable to ports in the Great Barrier Reef Region; and
- e) key current and proposed management, monitoring and reporting programs and arrangements within the Port of Gladstone, and surrounds and report on their adequacy, and if necessary, provide advice on any significant areas for improvement. This analysis should consider any potential areas of duplication, perceived monitoring gaps, opportunities for integration and other areas where governance arrangements may be improved.

In considering the above, the Review will have regard to and, if necessary, provide advice on, lessons learned for the future development and operation of Gladstone and other port areas within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage property, including the implications for Traditional Owners and the local community dependent on the resources of the area.

6. Conduct

The Review shall be conducted in an independent and transparent manner. Public submissions may be sought. Public submissions (unless confidentiality requirements apply) and the final report to the Minister will be made publicly available.

7. Timing

The Chair will provide a final report of the Independent Review's findings and advice by no later than 30 June 2013.

8. Secretariat

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities will provide secretariat support to the Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone.