
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.