

## Environment and Planning Policy Tasks – 2016-17

NQBP has provided oversight and leadership in a number of environment and planning policy areas on behalf of the Queensland Ports Sector. These include:

- Only non-government reef partner responsible for managing an action in the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (LTSP). Water Quality Action 17 has required ports to: *“Understand the port sediment characteristics and risks at the four major ports and how they interact and contribute to broader catchment contributions within the World Heritage Area”*. Tasks include:
  - **June-September 2016** – Review and synthesis of existing information.
  - **September 2016-December 2016** – Preparation of scope in consultation with regulators, scientists and other Reef 2050 stakeholders.
  - **January 2017** – Tender process and award of contract.
  - **July 2017** – Initial drafts of technical reports.
  
- Reviewed and coordinated inputs into the Maintenance Dredging Strategy and the subsequent Long Term Maintenance Dredge Management Plan Guidelines<sup>1</sup> being developed by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR):
  - **Early 2016** – Developed a framework for the long-term management of port sediment. This framework was heavily informed by leading-practice work undertaken by NQBP as part of the Hay Point Sustainable Sediment Assessment Project.
  - **Throughout 2016** – Coordinated between Queensland ports and DTMR on technical aspects relating to the strategy.
  - **Early 2017** – Developed a risk based process for considering important environmental values in the scheduling of maintenance dredging activities in Queensland. Used this process to prepare the 2017 maintenance dredging schedule<sup>2</sup>.
  - **Early 2017** – Coordinated a response to Government and Shareholding Ministers confirming Ports’ commitment to developing Long Term Maintenance Dredge Management Plans (LMDMPs) at each GBR port.
  - **Throughout 2017** – Worked with DTMR to finalise guidelines for the development of LMDMPs.
  - **Throughout 2017** – Worked with Queensland Ports to provide assistance on how to prepare LMDMPs.
  
- Worked closely with Ports Australia in the Development of a Dredging Code of Practice<sup>3</sup> which was published in **August 2016**. Presented this Dredging Code of Practice to the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee in late 2016.
  
- Ongoing advice and guidance to Department of State Development (DSD) in relation to Master Plans and Environmental Management Frameworks (EMF)<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Maintenance Dredging Strategy (<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/-/media/busind/Transport-sectors/Ports/maintenancedredgingstrategy/Maintenance-Dredging-Strategy---November-2016.pdf?la=en>)

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Maintenance Dredging Schedule (<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/-/media/busind/Transport-sectors/Ports/maintenancedredgingstrategy/Schedule-for-State-wide-Maintenance-Dredging-of-Queensland-Ports.pdf?la=en>)

<sup>3</sup> Ports Australia Dredging Code of Practice (<http://www.portsaustralia.com.au/assets/Uploads/Ports-Australia-Dredging-Code-of-Practice.pdf>)

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Port Development (<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/sustainable-port-development.html>)

- Input into the Reef 2050 Net Benefits and Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines<sup>5</sup>, including:
  - **Throughout 2016** – Several workshops on a ‘Master Planning Case Study’ designed to inform the guidelines.
  - **Throughout 2017** – Several workshops/meetings with regulators on the development of the guidelines.
- Represented ports in the Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program (RIMRep). Numerous port environmental specialists have also been embedded into technical working groups responsible for designing monitoring programs.
- Provided input into the Department of Environment’s (DoTE’s) Reef Trust offset calculator project. Organised meetings between key DoTE, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) personnel to ensure consistency with respect to state and federal requirements, attended multiple workshops and drafted multiple submissions.
- Reviewed multiple policy documents from DEHP on the following Environmentally Relevant Activities:
  - *Stockpiling, Loading and Unloading* (ERA 50);
  - *Extractive and Screening Activities* (ERA 16).
- Reviewed the new Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Permissions system and held several meetings with the GBRMPA to discuss improvement opportunities.
- Reviewed the new planning system under the *Planning Act 2016* and met with the Department of Infrastructure and Local Government to discuss opportunities to align with other legislation such as the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 (TIA)*. Also tabled a list of proposed changes to TIA with DTMR.
- Reviewed draft Great Barrier Reef Enhanced Water Quality Regulations Discussion Paper and provided advice to the Office of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Participated in the GBRMPA Governance Review.
- Member of the North East Water Space Management Working Group which met multiple times in 2016/2017. Responsible for ensuring that key shipping actions out of the Reef 2050 LTSP were tabled and discussed amongst shipping stakeholders and a process agreed for delivery of these actions.
- Reviewed and provided inputs into several research projects and proposals to ensure that they leverage information from ports where appropriate.
- Represented ports at several state and commonwealth multiple Biosecurity Forms
- Represented ports at multiple Reef 2050 Advisory Committee meetings.
- Represented ports the Great Barrier Reef Summit
- Chair of multiple Ports Australia Environment and Planning Working Group meetings.

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<sup>5</sup> Net Benefit and Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines (<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/reef-2050/reef-2050-plan-draft-policies-and-guideline-consultation>)