

# Maintenance Dredging Project

## Environmental management and monitoring

August 2024



**NQBP is the only port authority with three ports operating within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA). The importance of this World Heritage Area is an integral factor in our operations, planning and development.**

### Monitoring and management of dredging activities

The management of dredging activities is undertaken in accordance with state and Commonwealth legislation as well as international protocols.

Environmental monitoring and management measures will be implemented throughout the Hay Point program to minimise the impact on the marine environment.

NQBP's assessment reports have found the risks to protected areas including the GBRWHA and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are predominantly low with some temporary, short-term impacts to benthic habitat possible within the dredging and relocation areas.

NQBP will continue its extensive ongoing best practice monitoring programs around periods of maintenance dredging, to ensure any unpredicted changes to water quality are appropriately managed.

The environmental maintenance dredging monitoring program takes a three-tiered approach:

**ADAPTIVE** – Real-time monitoring to prevent unpredicted change in environmental condition

**IMPACT** – Monitoring before, during and after each dredging program

**AMBIENT** – Ongoing monitoring to assess long-term environmental condition



Based on a sound understanding of the natural environmental conditions and thresholds in the local area, a series of response triggers are monitored to ensure that dredge related conditions outside of natural ranges are avoided or stopped before they occur.

### Real-time data

Information is gathered from water logger sites at Round Top Island, Victor Island, Slade Island and Freshwater Point.

You can access this real-time water quality information on a live dashboard on our website.

### What is maintenance dredging?

Maintenance dredging involves relocating sediment which travels along the coast and naturally accumulates over the years where our shipping operation occurs.

### More reports and further information

Industry-leading research and technical studies have informed NQBP's approach to the proposed maintenance dredging – the approach has been designed to minimise impacts to the environment.



For more about this maintenance dredging program contact:  
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