



Gladstone Ports Corporation

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Media Release

CSIRO visit Gladstone

21 December 2011

CSIRO visited Gladstone recently as part of the water quality monitoring programme for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project.

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) contacted CSIRO earlier in the year to involve them as part of an independent review of water quality in the harbour.

In mid-December Dr Simon Apte, an expert in water contaminants and toxicology, led a team to research and review water quality monitoring, including metals testing.

Dr Apte and his colleagues carried out independent testing throughout the harbour and are currently analysing these samples at their laboratories in New South Wales.

CSIRO are due to report on their findings in February.

GPC has given an assurance it will make the CSIRO report public and will implement any recommendations to improve the existing water quality processes.

“We are pleased that CSIRO were able to visit Gladstone and take water samples from the harbour so promptly,” CEO Leo Zussino said.

“Independent oversight from external organisations such as CSIRO is an invaluable part of the dredging project.

“CSIRO have come on board to not only update the research on water quality and dissolved metals they did here in 1998, 2005 and 2010, but to also validate for the Gladstone community that the water testing regime we have in place is accurate, thorough and scientifically sound.”

Dr Apte said the latest visit to Gladstone was incredibly useful.

“We collected water samples from the inner harbour areas where the dredging is happening and reference samples from outer harbour areas,” Dr Apte added.

“The CSIRO team also had the opportunity to meet with Vision Environment to review their water quality practices and reporting methods for the dredging project.

“We are now working on the data and those meetings and will report our findings early

next year.”

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