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Media Release

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GPC commences dredging in the Western Basin

Dredging for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project has commenced in the Western Basin of Gladstone harbour.

Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO Leo Zussino said dredging has begun with a backhoe dredge operating close to Laird Point.

"This dredge called "BIG BOSS" will operate 24 hours a day," Mr Zussino said.

"An exclusion zone of 50 metres will be in force around the dredge and its associated dredging plant, such as barges."

Mr Zussino said there would be two barges working with the dredge taking the dredge material offshore initially.

"Two million cubic metres of dredge material will be offloaded to our offshore dredge spoil area.

"A further four million cubic metres will be transported to the reclamation area at Fisherman's Landing."

Mr Zussino said the barges would be making two runs per day to the offshore dump site. "Each barge will be carrying one thousand cubic metres of dredge material," Mr Zussino explained.

"The "BIG BOSS" is working adjacent to Laird Point and will be there until the middle of August."

Mr Zussino added more dredges would be arriving over the coming months.

"A second backhoe dredge, the "RAZENDE BOL", has just arrived in the port and will be operational around mid June," Mr Zussino stated.

"It will be stationed close by the "BIG BOSS" in the vicinity of Laird Point.

"A further two dredges will be arriving in July."

Mr Zussino stated that GPC will continue to work closely with DERM and Maritime Safety Qld to ensure all the strict environmental conditions of the project are met throughout the dredging process.

"As traffic increases in the Western Basin I would like to urge the boating public to take care and be aware of the exclusion zones operating around the dredges and barges," Mr Zussino added.

The Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project involves the deepening and widening of existing channels and the creation of new swing basins and berth pockets in the Western Basin.

The Project has been financed by the QGC, GLNG, Australia Pacific LNG, and Arrow Energy and is being undertaken by the Gladstone Ports Corporation.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Lee McIvor

Media Advisor

Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited

Phone: 0749761212

Mobile: 0448 199 850

Fax: 0749761193

www.gpcl.com.au



▪ Ph: +61 7 4976 1333 ▪ Fax: +61 7 4972 3045 ▪ 19 Yarroon St/PO Box 259, Gladstone QLD, 4680, AUSTRALIA ▪ www.gpcl.com.au
▪ Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited ▪ ACN 131 965 896 ▪ ABN 96 263 788 242