



Gladstone Ports Corporation

Growth, Prosperity, Community.

Media Release

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**Independence of the Western Basin Dredging
and Disposal Environmental Programme**

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) can assure Gladstone Regional Council and local residents of the independence of all water quality testing that is being conducted as part of the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project.

“The recent suggestion that there is a lack of independent oversight and environmental data collection, in particular the water quality testing programme, is totally false and misleading,” said Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO, Mr Leo Zussino.

“GPC does not conduct its own water quality sampling or analysis,” Mr Zussino explained.

“We have a contract with an external company, Vision Environment, which is independent of the project, of GPC and of all other regulatory bodies.

“This local company has extensive research and scientific expertise of many years in the Gladstone area.”

Water quality monitoring includes continual testing of turbidity, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, metals and light monitoring.

This data has been collected over 6 months prior to the project and will continue for the duration of all dredging and disposal activities.

The independently chaired Dredge Technical Reference Panel uses this data to adapt the project activities in line with environmental conditions.

“Over 20 external companies, including four Universities and the internationally renowned CSIRO are been involved in the preparation, planning, implementation and assessment of our environmental programme,” Mr Zussino said.

“GPC have budgeted over \$70 million in the next three years for this environmental programme.

“The Gladstone Ports Corporation has always enjoyed strong support from the Gladstone community.

“The community can be assured the GPC will never do anything to diminish that trust

and support.” Mr Zussino stated.

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