

Gladstone Ports Corporation statement:

Q. In the wake of the fishing ban in Gladstone Harbour, did the Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Panel recommend a study be conducted into tributyltin contamination in the port, or into the imposex effects of said contamination on gastropods in the area? If not, why not? If so, was the study done?

A. The ERMP is designed to provide high level information on the health of Port Curtis and Port Alma ecosystems and observe and provide advice on any potential impacts caused by the dredging program and practices.

This was conditioned to be specific to marine megafauna and seabirds i.e. EPBC listed species. Tributyltin-based paints as antifoulants on vessel hulls in Australia has been restricted since 1989. Its concern would be from historic deposition into the sediments and potential re-suspension from dredging. However an extensive campaign of geochemical testing via 1000+ boreholes in the dredging footprint was carried out in the Gladstone harbour. The testing of the sediments in the dredging footprint from these borehole tests indicated that there were no or very little contamination issues regarding TBT.

Q. Did the ERMP consider at all the possible effects of tributyltin contamination in the harbour? If so, what were its findings, and what was the GPC action taken on those findings?

A. As mentioned above, the testing of sediments in the dredging footprint indicated that there were no or very little contamination issues regarding TBT. As there was no or very little TBT detected in the dredging footprint, TBT contamination in the dredging footprint in the Gladstone harbour was not needed to be considered.

Q. A report from CQU, titled Status of imposex from tributyltin contamination in Port Curtis was completed in 2009, and provided to the GPC. Why was the report not publicly released, or provided on the port corporation website, as all other environmental programs are?

A. GPC receive many reports with not all reports published on the GPC website. As the 'Status of imposex from tributyltin contamination in Port Curtis' report was done 1 year before the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal Project (WBDDP), GPC is not required to put the report on the website.

Q. Did the GPC take action on all of the recommendations of that report? If so, what action was taken? If not, why not?

A. The recommendations in the report to follow up imposex surveys and organotin body burden analysis in gastropods is recommended in 2014. The testing of sediments in the dredging footprint indicated that there were no or very little contamination issues regarding TBT. At this time GPC has not engaged any further work into the recommendations.

Q. If the GPC took action only on some of the report's recommendations, which ones, and what were the findings of the further recommended research?

A. Not applicable.