

Question on Notice

No. 1245

Asked on Wednesday 16 September 2009

MRS CUNNINGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed dredging for the Western Basin in the Port of Gladstone—

(1) What investigations were carried out in relation to the impact dredging would have on commercial and recreational fishing and specifically, what consultation occurred with these stakeholder groups?

(2) What quantitative analysis has been done in relation to commercial and recreational fishing impacts relating to reclamation proposed between Friend Point and Fisherman's Landing?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for the question.

Gladstone Ports Corporation has undertaken investigations and consultation concerning the impact of dredging on commercial and recreational fishing as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal project.

Gladstone Ports Corporation has undertaken detailed studies and investigations into water quality, sediment quality, coastal processes, marine mega fauna, marine ecology and terrestrial ecology. In addition, studies and investigations are being carried out to assess potential environmental issues relating to climate and climate change, greenhouse gas, other matters of environmental significance and most importantly the impacts of works being carried out. Issues arising from stakeholder and community consultation, cultural heritage, social and economic impacts are also addressed as part of the assessment reports for the project.

Gladstone Ports Corporation has completed a formal consultation process with a wide range of stakeholder groups, including both commercial and recreational fisheries groups, Port Curtis Coral Coast People (local Indigenous Group), Central Queensland University and the Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural Regional section of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

I am advised that the Member was briefed on the project by Gladstone Ports Corporation on 7 July 2009 and on the notification of the draft Terms of Reference for public comment on 15 July 2009.

An assessment of the impacts relating to reclamation proposed between Friend Point and Fisherman's Landing in relation to commercial and recreational fishing will be completed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process for the project. The information and data gathered from the studies and consultation with stakeholder groups will be considered as part of this assessment.

Gladstone Ports Corporation is currently in the process of compiling the Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Basin Dredging and Disposal project which will be released for public comment following submission to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.