



Dredging threatens Gladstone Harbour

Capricorn Conservation Council fears that the LNG “bonanza” will lead to the destruction of the natural values of Gladstone Harbour.

“Gladstone Ports Corporation has commenced a massive three-year dredging program which will result in 50 million cubic metres of the harbour floor being removed. Apart from a few million cubic metres which will be dumped at sea, the rest will be turned into a huge eyesore in the harbour just north of the Fisherman’s landing cement works. It will cover an area of 380 hectares and will have a peak height of about 30 metres.” said Mr Herbert, CCC spokesman. “The visual impact will come as a shock to many Gladstone residents.”

Many thousands of hectares of seagrass beds will be removed, which will have an adverse impact on marine life, particularly Dugong, and several species of Turtle and Dolphin, including the rare Snubfin Dolphin. While there are conditions in place to protect individual animals, this is akin to clearing a paddock full of trees, while removing the koalas so they are not killed, but leaving them with no habitat, and expecting them to find “somewhere else” to live, when such places already have their own populations.

LNG is seen as a transitional energy source while moving from coal to carbon-free renewables. “What will Gladstone be left with after a few decades - an industrial wasteland and a degraded harbour?” asked Mr Herbert. “While much is made of the short term economic benefits of these LNG projects, there is little doubt that Gladstone Harbour will ultimately become the **environmental void** of coastal Qld.”