



**FISH KILL SPARKS CALL FOR THOROUGH INVESTIGATION
and
REINSTATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

News of the Catfish kill in the Boyne River south of Gladstone in Central Queensland has sparked community concerns again about fish health and water quality in our harbour and rivers.

Capricorn Conservation Council and Gladstone Conservation Council are calling for a thorough investigation into the Catfish deaths including water, sediment and fish tissue tests, past and current results. Despite being assured by the Department of Environment that they can find nothing wrong with the water quality, it is obvious that something is wrong and more investigations are needed.

CCC Project Officer, Ms Chantelle James, said “We call upon the government to ensure a thorough investigation of the fish kill and to have tissues and the gills of the dead fish sampled for heavy metals, toxins and microbiology by way of pathology tests, histopathology tests and necropsy.”

“To determine if it is natural causes or other environmental issues, we request that the government look at past and current water quality measurements and sediment testing for the Boyne River, Calliope River and Gladstone Harbour” said Ms James.

“We also call upon industry and the ports corporation to assist and provide any data they have on water quality and sediments. In particular, we hope that Gladstone Ports Corporation will provide their water quality data from all of their 32 continual and manual monitoring sites in the harbour, and any information to assist government officials in determining the water quality status of the harbour area in relation to fish health.”

Ms James is not just asking for a thorough investigation; she would like Campbell Newman’s new government to re-instate the community engagement process for Fish Health and Water Quality in the Gladstone Harbour. This was formerly delivered through the Extended Oversight Committee, which is currently in recess due to legal proceedings.

Gladstone Conservation Council spokesperson, Cheryl Watson, said “Our community deserves to be kept informed about the water quality and fish health issues in Gladstone Harbour and our rivers. Most people just want some answers and to be able to ask questions and be listened to. Our children and marine creatures deserve healthy rivers and a healthy harbour now and into the future.”

ENDS

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