



1 November 2012

Gladstone Cyanide Spill Penalty

Orica pleaded guilty today to a range of charges of discharging water containing cyanide into Gladstone Harbour and received a penalty of \$432,000 under the Environment Protection Act (EPA).

Michael McCabe Capricorn Conservation Council Coordinator said today, "CCC welcomes the level of penalty applied to Orica for contaminating Gladstone Harbour."

In a Queensland first, s502 of the EPA utilised a 'Public Benefit Order' with the court directing \$250,000 of the penalty to direct environmental remediation programs;

- a) \$100,000 for a study of foraging habitat use by Port Curtis green turtles
- b) \$90,000 for the Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Program Gladstone;
- c) \$60,000 for the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

"It's great to see environmental protection get some teeth, and especially for penalties to go back into improving knowledge and protecting habitats and water quality."

"Much more ecological research is needed before further pressure is placed the Port Curtis environment. For example, what has happened to the harbour's wonderful Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins and Dugong?"

"CCC is waiting patiently for the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership to get underway to enable open sharing of information and concerns."

ENDS
