

Knowledge Forum

Date: Saturday 29 April 2017 – 10.10am to 2pm

Venue: Magnetic Island Bowls Club, Arcadia

Facilitator: Adam Smith, Director, Reef Ecologic

Today's presentations by invited speakers today will be recorded (video). POTL will arrange for the distribution of these recorded sessions to attendees as well as add links to the footage on our website.

WORKSHOP CONDUCT

- The facilitator is present to ensure the workshop stays on track within the timeframes allocated – respect is to be afforded to the facilitator.
- Questions and discussions are to stay on point and within the scope of the agenda.
- All participants are expected to maintain composure, be respectful at all times and extend courtesy to other participants.
- There is to be no interjection during presentations, sufficient time is allocated for questions and answers to be addressed following each presentation.
- Any questions participants feel have not been addressed during the workshop should be put forward in the questions box or SMS (**0413 212 058**) and Port of Townsville Limited will provide a written response or arrange further meetings as appropriate.

TOPICS NOT BEING COVERED THIS WORKSHOP

The workshop has been structured as a knowledge sharing forum to respond to the key scientific matters raised during the consultation processes of the Townsville Port Expansion Project, with particular emphasis on the matters of most relevance to Magnetic Island.

Given these matters include a substantial amount of detail - also allowing for sufficient times for questions and answers - the agenda must remain focussed to cover the topics raised as most of interest to participants.

As such, the following matters will not be covered in detail at this forum. Port of Townsville Limited is able to provide background information and Q&A sheets where appropriate on these items.

- Individual scientific questions from AEIS Process (this is managed via the regulatory process)
- Detailed trade and shipping projections
- Detailed Business Case for the Port Expansion Project
- External projects (e.g. Gladstone, Nelly Bay etc)
- Climate change

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TODAY'S PRESENTERS *(in order of Agenda appearance):*

Professor Peter Ridd

College of Science & Engineering, James Cook University

Professor Peter Ridd is Professor of Physics at James Cook University Townsville. He has been working on the Physical Oceanography of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) since 1984 and has worked on movement of sediment, ocean flow and other aspects of the GBR environment. He has published over 100 papers in international journals and also led a group working on developing advanced electronic and optical instruments for measuring ocean parameters, some of which have been commercialized. He is also involved with environmental monitoring of dredging operations to prevent damage to nearby reefs and has conducted studies on large dredge operations around Australia. The proceeds of his commercial work are all used for student scholarships and to fund other research activity mostly into instrumentation development and for robotic systems to control weeds and invasive species.



In recent years Professor Ridd has worked on assessing some of the threats to the GBR in particular calling for more quality assurance of the science so that we may have confidence in its veracity if it is to be used for making expensive public policy decisions.

Dr Ross Jones

Senior Research Scientist, Coral Biologist, Ecotoxicologist, Australian Institute of Marine Science

Background

I completed my PhD at James Cook University (1992-1996), and then postdoctoral fellowships at The University of Sydney (ARC fellowship 1996-2000) and at The University of Queensland (ARC-Industry Fellowship 2000-2004). During these periods, I researched the response of the coral-algal symbiosis to altered environmental conditions including heat, light and osmotic stress, and in response to xenobiotics such as herbicides, copper, cyanide & effluent from the offshore oil and gas industry. In 2004 I took up a faculty position at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) where I was Principal Investigator of the government funded Marine Environmental Program. This involved designing and implementing various long-term monitoring programs (water quality, seawater temperature, ecological surveys), as well as ecotoxicological studies and surveys of contaminant concentrations. In 2009, I returned to Australia to take up my present position at AIMS-WA in Perth.



My major research interest is the biology of the coral-algal symbiosis and understanding and quantifying how the relationship changes during altered environmental conditions (natural and anthropogenic). I am involved in developing ways to examine and quantify the condition of corals in both laboratory-based setting (i.e. for determining water quality criteria for reefal ecosystems) and in the field (i.e. examining dredging or construction-related activity, or point/diffuse source pollution). Much of my work now is associated with the examining the effects of sediments from dredging on corals, seagrass and sponges.

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Mr Greg Fisk

Associate & National Practice Leader for Environment, BMT WBM

Greg has more than 20 years of experience in preparing, assessing and managing multi-disciplinary environmental plans and impact assessment studies. As BMT WBM's National Practice Leader for Environment, Greg has a thorough knowledge of environmental law, policy, planning and management throughout Australia. He has a particularly strong background and understanding of State and local government interaction on land use planning issues having been involved in the development and review of numerous local government planning schemes.



While with the Queensland Government, Greg was heavily involved in major reforms to Queensland's environmental legislation and planning systems including preparation of the State and regional coastal management plans under the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and development of water quality objectives under the Queensland Environmental Protection Act 1994. Since joining BMT WBM, Greg has continued to play a role in the development of environmental policy, working with various State departments and local authorities in the preparation of State planning policies, assessment codes and guidelines.

Greg also has an excellent understanding and practical experience working with Commonwealth legislation such as the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. As environment co-ordinator for major projects at Brisbane Airport, Greg played a key role in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed New Parallel Runway at Brisbane Airport, including managing the EPBC referral and extensive State and local government approval process associated with the project.

Greg also offers specialised insight and expertise in developing environmental mitigation, compensatory habitat and offsets strategies. These skills have been developed through extensive experience working with both clients and regulatory agencies to develop solutions to environmental challenges. In this regard, Greg offers outstanding skills and experience with respect to regulatory agency consultation and liaison.

Mr Brad Grant

Senior Environmental Scientist, BMT WBM

Brad joined BMT WBM in January 2009 and has more than 13 years' experience working for local government and private organisations in South-East Queensland and overseas. He has a broad range of expertise including water quality, dredging impact assessments, environmental management, environmental auditing and monitoring, and stormwater management.



Since joining BMT WBM, Brad has been involved in ambient and event-based water quality monitoring programs, setting environmental values and associated water quality objectives for catchments, environmental impact assessments, stormwater management and catchment modelling projects. He has also recently been involved in the capacity of project manager and technical lead in a number of significant dredging-related Environmental Impact Statements for a variety of Queensland ports.

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TOPIC	LEAD	TIME	ENDS
1. Welcome and Introduction Welcome to Magnetic Island Acknowledgement of Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop Structure and Speakers Topics Not Covered Conduct and Engagement Question Box and SMS Number for Questions 	Lorna Hempstead	2 mins	10.12
	Facilitator	3 mins	10.15
2. Port of Townsville Context & Drivers for Port Expansion	Ranee Crosby, CEO Port of Townsville Ltd	15 mins	10.30
3. Context - Cleveland Bay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement of Sediment & Sediment Sources Turbidity Levels - Cleveland Bay & Magnetic Island Activities Impacting on Sensitive Receptors Port of Townsville Environmental Approach & history of dredging in Townsville 	Dr Peter Ridd	15 mins	10.45
	Dr Ross Jones	10 mins	10.55
	Dr Ross Jones	10 mins	11.05
	Kim Gebers	15 mins	11.20
Facilitated Discussion	Facilitator	30 mins	11.50
TEA/COFFEE BREAK		10 mins	12
4. Capital Dredging – Port Expansion Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dredging Method and Timeframes Modelling & Monitoring Included in PEP EIS Controls, Oversight & Protections for Dredging 	Greg Fisk	15 mins	12.15
	Brad Grant	15 mins	12.30
Facilitated Discussion	Facilitator	25 mins	12.55
5. Maintenance Dredging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Data from History of Monitoring Modelling & Monitoring Included in PEP EIS Dredge Material Placement Options Ongoing research 	Greg Fisk	15 mins	1.10
	Brad Grant	15 mins	1.25
	Melinda Loudon	15 mins	1.40
	Dr Ross Jones	5 mins	1.45
Facilitated Discussion	Facilitators	20 mins	2.05
6. Wrap Up & Next Steps	Facilitators	5 mins	2.10

SMS Question Number: 0413 212 058