



# Environmental Investigations

Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) recognises and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians and knowledge holders of their cultural heritage. PBPL has a strong history of working and engaging with the Traditional Custodians of the Moreton Bay and Brisbane area and is committed to the effective protection of their cultural heritage through meaningful engagement, knowledge and information sharing.

## The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The proposed Channel Enhancement Project (CEP) is a proposed 25-year program of works to deepen and widen sections of the Port’s navigational channels to accommodate the next generation of larger vessels. The CEP has been declared a ‘coordinated project’ by the Queensland Government and a controlled action by the Commonwealth Government, requiring a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process ensures that environmental, cultural, and community considerations are rigorously assessed.

The environmental investigations to be undertaken will build upon decades of environmental data collected by PBPL, government agencies and research institutions, as well as new studies focused on areas potentially impacted by the project.

As Moreton Bay is a declared State Marine Park, all investigations and surveys will be conducted in accordance with permits issued by the State Government, under the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan and Regulations.

## Sediment Testing

Sediment testing plays a key role in understanding the environment. Narrow sediment cores are taken from areas where dredging is planned to assess the physical properties and chemical composition of the seabed.

This testing helps the assessment of potential dredge volumes, identify the necessary dredge equipment for construction, and pinpoints areas of where sediment contamination may be present, and where additional environmental management measures may be required.

## Water quality monitoring

Water quality monitoring has been ongoing in Moreton Bay under the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) for over 20 years, with monthly data collection across more than 20 sites throughout the Bay. This program uses scientifically robust process to provide data to support actions relating to water quality and ecosystem health.

To supplement this long-term data set, continuous water quality loggers will be deployed at key locations in Moreton Bay. These loggers will provide real-time data on turbidity, salinity, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen every 15 minutes. Special attention will be given to sensitive habitats, such as seagrass beds, to understand how these areas are affected by natural events like floods and storms.



Water quality testing in Moreton Bay has been undertaken for over 20 years. Image supplied by BMT



## Marine ecology surveys

A further environmental investigation to be undertaken will be marine ecology surveys. These surveys will include acoustic mapping, underwater video, and the deployment of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) stations to study the abundance and diversity of marine life.

The surveys focus on both non-mobile and mobile fauna. This data will help fill existing knowledge gaps for key species of conservation or cultural significance in the Bay, complementing existing surveys undertaken by the Port of Brisbane in collaboration with Griffith University on large marine animals like whales.

## Numerical modelling

Numerical modelling will be used to predict the potential environmental changes resulting from the CEP. This modelling will focus on shoreline processes such as erosion and sand supply, as well as water quality and the potential impacts of dredge plumes.

Additionally, it will assess how changes to physical and chemical processes, such as tidal currents and water quality, may affect marine habitats in the Bay.

## Stakeholder engagement

In the development of the EIS, interested stakeholders will be able to provide feedback on environmental matters through a range of opportunities including submissions, workshops and displays.

The draft EIS must address the terms of reference finalised by the Coordinator-General. Once accepted as adequate, the draft EIS, which will include outcomes from the environmental investigations, will be released for public consultation, and publicly available for the life of the Project on the Queensland Government's website. Submissions on the draft EIS are to be made directly to the Coordinator-General.



*Stakeholders will have opportunities to provide feedback on the project's environmental investigations.*

## More information

PBPL will progress the proposed Channel Enhancement Project through the Queensland Government's coordinated project processes.

Detailed information about the EIS process is available at [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general).

Information about the proposed Channel Enhancement Project is available at: [www.portbris.com.au](http://www.portbris.com.au).