

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 65  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
**Topic:** ABBOT POINT PROJECT  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 17 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

Comparing the approval conditions in relation to the capital dredging at Abbot Point to the Gladstone Western Basin Strategic Dredging and Disposal Project, it appears that the Gladstone project had a higher level of transparency. For instance, in relation to water quality, monitoring and ecosystem research and monitoring, the approval conditions for Gladstone states “the person taking the action must make the findings, including related data, or any or all of these studies or activities publicly available upon request by any interested parties.”

- a) Can the Department clarify why the Abbot point did not include equivalent transparency provisions?
- b) Did the Department or the Minister ever receive a submission from proponents that such transparency provisions be omitted?

**Answer:**

- a) The Abbot Point Terminal 0, 2 and 3 Capital Dredging Project approval conditions have equivalent transparency measures. Condition 41 requires the proponent to publish all plans and programs on the internet within one month of being approved. Condition 20 requires the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community on alternative disposal sites under the Disposal Site Analysis Plan.

Under the Marine Park Permit issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Conditions 21–25 require the proponent establish, fund and facilitate an independent Management Response Group to provide advice on dredging and disposal activities. The group must include representatives from the Bowen Local Marine Advisory Committee, the fishing and tourism industries as well as indigenous and conservation groups amongst others.

- b) No