



**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PORT CURTIS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING? -
IS PCIMP ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL?**

The Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP) was set up over a decade ago to undertake environmental monitoring for the whole of Port Curtis. PCIMP is a consortium of the 16 major industries plus other stakeholders such as local and state government agencies in Gladstone, but what have they done?

“According to their webpage since 2006 they have been funded by \$600,000 per year and yet they have published only one report in ten years. This was a 2008 report based on data collected in 2007 and 2006. Repeated requests for more up to date information, such as the promised February 2011 report on the health of sea-grass beds, have gone unanswered.” said CCC Coordinator Michael McCabe.

It is of great concern to Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) that environmental monitoring of Gladstone Harbour is in the hands of an organisation funded by industry and totally under the control of the all-powerful Gladstone Ports Corporation.

CCC is asking “What is the point of PCIMP other than an expensive exercise in ‘greenwashing’?”

“What has PCIMP got to hide? Have they tested the sediments that are being stirred up by the current dredging activity?”

“What we find even more alarming is that the Gladstone Ports Corporation is pushing massive development of new coal loading ports, plus dredging, at the mouth of the Fitzroy River at the northern end of the narrows. Apart from a small wharf at Port Alma, this is effectively an untouched site. Can we expect similarly ineffective monitoring in Keppel Bay in future?”