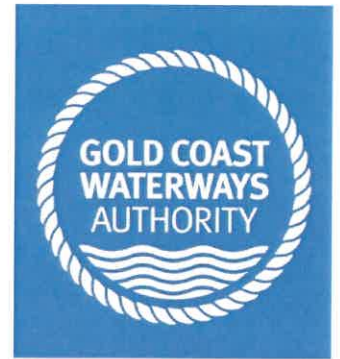


Our Ref: 215/245/25
Enquiries: Peter Dainter

17 September 2015



Dear Resident

PROGRESS UPDATE – Currigee Inlet Navigation Access Maintenance Works

Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) has received requests from the local community at South Stradbroke Island to dredge Currigee Inlet to provide improved safety and access for vessels.

In response to the community's request, we recently completed four (4) geotechnical bore holes and sediment analysis at the site. The investigations by independent environmental consultants identified that the material in the inlet contains acid sulphate soils which require careful handling and disposal to avoid any negative environmental impacts.

Acid sulphate soils are formed by bacterial activity in waterlogged conditions when there is no or little available oxygen. If left undisturbed and covered by water, acid sulphate soils pose no or low risk. However, when disturbed or exposed to oxygen, these soils undergo a chemical reaction known as oxidation. If not treated and handled properly, this may result in the creation of acid soil which can harm the marine environment.

Currigee Inlet is located within the Moreton Bay Marine Park which has high environmental values and strict legislative requirements which must be met before any approvals are granted for dredging works. The proposed dredging site is also surrounded by a protected habitat and is a breeding ground for fish and other marine species.

GCWA has investigated several dredge spoil disposal options, however, the costs to remove and treat the material is prohibitively expensive and disposal underwater to a deep hole nearby cannot be completed due to the proximity of the 'Fish Habitat Area A'.

Due to these strict environmental conditions as well as economic constraints, we are unable to proceed with dredging the inlet at this time.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Dainter (Project Manager) on 07 5539 7334.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hal Morris'.

Hal Morris
Chief Executive Officer

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