

Monitoring of Sand Extraction Operations at Moreton Bay

Moreton Bay is a multi-use Marine Park, which supports a diversity of fauna of high conservation value. It has high cultural heritage and recreational resource values and supports substantial commercial and recreational fisheries. Many people may be surprised to also know that for a number of years sand has been extracted from Moreton Bay for use in the construction industry. The ongoing viability of these sand extraction operations is dependent upon the demonstration of effective environmental management.

To protect the environmental values of the Bay, stringent conditions are placed on the operators by various licensing agencies. BMT WBM has been integral in negotiations between the government agencies and the sand extraction companies and in the development of monitoring programs to ensure licensing conditions are met.

Our duties involved liaison between government and industry and regular monitoring and reporting for the five companies operating in Moreton Bay, covering 15 lease areas from Rous Channel in the south to the Spitfire Channel in the north of the Bay. Our responsibilities included conducting turbidity plume monitoring, reporting of the dredge discharge monitoring program and implementation and management of the Environmental Logbook Program.

Through the development and implementation of these monitoring programs, BMT WBM has developed excellent working relationships with both the commercial operators and the relevant government bodies and has a thorough understanding of the issues faced in appropriately managing sand extraction operations in Moreton Bay.

Client

Moreton Bay Sand Extractors

Date

1996 – 2007

Services & Expertise Provided

Design of monitoring program and signoff by EPA;

Establishment and management of Environmental Logbook;

In-situ water quality measurements; and

Design and management of operator self monitoring program.

