

# **Pacific Adventurer Oil Spill and Container Loss**

## **Scientific Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference**

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### **Context/Background**

On 13 March the Pacific Adventurer lost 31 shipping containers of Ammonium Nitrate overboard approximately seven nautical miles East of Cape Moreton. As a result of damage to the hull of the Pacific Adventurer resulting from the containers going overboard, approximately 250 Tonnes of heavy fuel oil also washed ashore on the Sunshine Coast.

While the Clean up efforts are well underway, the Queensland Government is determined to assess the impacts of the current incident and ensure that the State is well prepared for any future threats.

The Government is convening a Scientific Advisory Panel to advise the government of the likely immediate impacts of the oil spill and the potential for the lost Ammonium Nitrate containers to affect the marine and coastal environment of South East Queensland, and to advise on requirements to ensure the State is well prepared if a similar event occurs anywhere in Queensland (including the Great Barrier Reef) in the future.

### **Objectives and Roles**

The Scientific Advisory Panel has been formed to:

1. Assess the short, medium and long term impacts of the oil spill on the marine and coastal environment of South East Queensland;
2. Determine the potential impacts should the Ammonium Nitrate content of the 31 containers leak into the marine and coastal environment of South East Queensland;
3. Advise government on what additional mechanisms are needed, particularly in relation to ecologically sensitive areas such as reef, should a similar event occur in future; and
4. Advise government on possible recovery strategies based on the Panel's assessment of likely impact.

The immediate role for the Panel is to:

- Advise government of the short term impacts of the oil spill on the flora and fauna of the marine and coastal environment of South East Queensland. This will include, for instance, impacts on commercially significant fish, prawn and shellfish stocks as well as likely impacts on fishing and associated industries; and
- Prepare and commence activities required to determine the medium to long term impacts of the oil spill and/or the ammonium nitrate.

## Membership

The membership of the panel comprises eminent scientists, from the government and academic sectors, with recognised expertise in the environmental impacts of events such as oil and chemical spills and a track record of research in this area.

<b>Proposed Panel Members</b>	
Dr Ian Poiner (Chair)	CEO, Australian Institute of Marine Studies
Professor Peter Doherty	Research Director, Australian Institute of Marine Studies
Dr Russell Reichelt	Chief Executive, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Professor Paul Greenfield	Vice Chancellor, University of Queensland
Professor Chris Cocklin	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, James Cook University of North Queensland
Dr John Robertson	General Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Dr John Glaister	Deputy Director-General, Queensland Transport and Main Roads
Dr Eva Abal	Senior Scientist, Healthy Waterways partnership
Dr Kate Wilson	Director, Wealth from Oceans Program, CSIRO
Dr Munro Mortimer	Principal Scientist, Freshwater and Marine Sciences Unit, Environmental Protection Agency
Dr Rick Morton	General Manager, Planning, Environment and Communities, Port of Brisbane Corporation

Queensland Transport will provide secretariat functions and meeting venues for the Committee, with meeting frequency being determined at the first Panel Meeting.