

New Bridgewater Bridge Project

Response to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PSCPW)

Questions Taken on Notice

At the PSCPW hearing held on 19 August 2021, the following questions were raised by the Committee and taken on notice by the New Bridgewater Bridge Project. The project's response to these questions is provided below:

1) The type and amount of contaminants contained in the surrounding sediment that may be disturbed during construction of the New Bridgewater Bridge.

- The project notes that the question raised by the Committee's Ms Butler specifically referred to the concentration of Mercury. The project has completed a comprehensive risk assessment of the contaminants contained in the surrounding sediment to inform the Major Project Approval process. A section of the aquatic risk assessment that pertains to the sediment contaminant sampling is provided to the Committee. The relevant certificates of analysis for the sediment testing are also provided. The results provided indicate that there are several contaminants in the sediments, including Mercury, that will need to be managed during the construction.

Attachments:

1. Aquatic Risk Assessment, Page 67 to 166, that is, the chapter on Sediments (100 pages).
2. Bridgewater Sediment Certificates of Analysis (lab reports) (266 pages).

2) Height of the proposed embankment to be built over the old causeway

- The Reference Design developed by the Department included an embankment, approximately 1.5m high for approximately 400m along the existing causeway, primarily to ensure the new road level would be above the expected water level, including future predicted sea level rise, storm surge and wave action. The full length of the causeway was not suitable for such an embankment due to the required height of the road above the existing surface at either end.
- As stated at the hearing, the project again notes that the final design proposed for construction by the successful Tenderer may differ from the Reference Design developed by the Department for consultation purposes.