



Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project (TRESBP)

www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au

MANAGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Case study part 4, of 5

As a complex coastal management system operating in two state jurisdictions and within two local council areas, the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project (TRESBP) requires rigorous management and decision-making processes.

Legislation

TRESBP legislation is important because it guides directions and responsibilities. The obligations of each state, such as operations, finance, environmental monitoring and community relations, are set out in the legislation. The acts of Parliament were passed in New South Wales and Queensland in 1995 and 1998, respectively. See the legislation at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/sessionalview/sessional/act/1995-55.pdf and www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Acts_Passed/Acts_Passed_NUM_1998.htm



Two government agencies, one from each state, implement the TRESBP.

Management structures

Specialist skills, such as environmental science, coastal engineering, legal and policy expertise, are used to implement and manage sand bypassing. Like many complex operations, TRESBP has structures in place to guide decision-making and management.

Strategic management

Two key groups guide the direction of TRESBP. The first is a small group of specialists working for state government and local councils in areas such as policy, coastal engineering and environmental science. This group, known as the TRESBP Working Group, gives direction and assistance to ensure TRESBP operations meet responsibilities under the law. The second group is an Advisory Committee, with a total of ten specialists and community members, which meets regularly in the local area and closely reviews operations, environmental studies, and community feedback. The requirements and roles of these two strategic management bodies are set out in legislation.



Southern Gold Coast beaches with Snapper Rocks and Point Danger to the south.

Day-to-day operations

As TRESBP is a joint project of the New South Wales and Queensland governments, personnel from both of these states manage Tweed sand bypassing operations. The approach is a cooperative one. In summary, New South Wales focuses on implementing and managing the system, while Queensland's role emphasises environmental and technical monitoring. The agencies responsible are:

- New South Wales Crown Lands Division, in the Department of Primary Industries
- Queensland Department of Environment and Resources.

Engineering firm McConnell Dowell Constructors (Australia) Pty Ltd, under contract until 2024, carries out TRESBP's on-site sand pumping, system maintenance and, if necessary, dredging. McConnell Dowell was awarded contracts in 1999 to develop, build and operate the Tweed sand bypassing system. The system commenced in 2001.

Local council and community involvement

Managing TRESBP operations and guiding strategic directions involves not only the two state governments and the contractors, but local councils and the community are heavily involved. Skilled specialists from the two local councils—Gold Coast City Council and Tweed Shire Council—are members of TRESBP Working Group and the TRESBP Advisory Committee. Similarly, community members make a significant contribution to TRESBP. Forty per cent of the membership of the Advisory Committee is allocated to community members. Legislation sets out requirements for informing, consulting and involving the community.

