



SKARDON RIVER EIS

Marine Ecology Investigations

Cape Alumina Limited engaged Ports and Coastal Environmental to conduct wet season water quality monitoring over the 2011-2012 season (October to March). Sampling was conducted throughout the Skardon River estuary, extending from the proposed barge load-out facility, to the river mouth. Surveys incorporated laboratory sampling and deployment of physicochemical loggers at key locations.

In addition to water quality, benthic infauna communities were also surveyed as a dry season and wet season program. Seagrass habitat distributions were also assessed within the vicinity of the proposed barge facility. Given the turbid waters and complex bathymetry, survey was undertaken using high resolution still images. The camera was motion activated and recorded images of the substrate as it came into view. Survey confirmed a very thin seagrass zone less than 1m wide given sharp bank profiles and low ambient light conditions.

