

Environmental Effects Report  
Guidelines  
Southern Marine Ship Lift  
Depth Management Dredging, Kings  
Wharf, Invermay

*August 2023*



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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## Introduction

### Purpose of the Guidelines

These Guidelines provide instructions for proponents on how to prepare an Environmental Effects Report (EER) for an activity being assessed in Tasmania by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board). An EER is a document that provides information about the environmental impacts of the proposed activity and the proposed mitigation measures. The Board uses the EER as a 'case for assessment', to assess the environmental impact of an activity, as required under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA).

Guidelines will be adapted for each proposal, where Part B and Part C include project-specific information requirements. The EER must be prepared in accordance with the project-specific Guidelines, which are issued under section 74(4) of the EMPCA.

The EER will be advertised during the public consultation period and remain publicly available on the EPA website. After consultation, the proponent may be required to supply additional information in response to public and government agency submissions. This generally takes the form of a Supplement to the EER.

Further information is available on the [EPA Assessment Process](#)<sup>1</sup> website.

### Preparing an EER

The EER should contain five parts as follows:

- Part A – information about the proponent
- Part B – information about the proposal, site and area
- Part C – information about potential environmental impacts
- Part D – description of the proposed management measures
- Part E – description of any public consultation undertaken

Other relevant information, such as survey reports, should be attached to the EER as appendices.

The EER must be typed, A4 sized and submitted electronically (in a searchable format). All images must be of high quality, have a descriptive caption, and be capable of being easily copied and pasted into other documents such as a permit (i.e. all objects should be 'grouped'). All maps, plans, and aerial photographs must be oriented in the same direction as far as practicable, and include a north arrow and scale.

The content of the EER should be prepared using a risk-based approach. The level of detail provided on each issue should be appropriate to the level of significance of that environmental issue to the proposal. Not all issues nominated in these Guidelines will have the same degree of relevance to the proposed activity. Depending on the nature of the proposed activity and its location, some of the issues may be more relevant than others, while others may not be applicable at all.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/assessment/assessment-process>

## Commonwealth Legislation

The Commonwealth Government may also have a role in the environmental assessment and approval of the proposed activity. Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is required for an action which is on Commonwealth land or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

Information on the EPBC Act can be obtained from the [Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc) website<sup>2</sup>, or by calling 1800 803 772.

**The EER must include a statement on whether Commonwealth approval is likely to be required.**

## Environment Protection Authority Contact

For information about the assessment process, contact the Environmental Assessment Branch:

GPO Box 1550

Hobart, Tasmania 7001

Telephone: 0427743988

Email: [assessments@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:assessments@epa.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.epa.tas.gov.au](http://www.epa.tas.gov.au)

At least one draft of the EER should be submitted for review prior to formal submission to the Board. This should be emailed or file shared to [assessments@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:assessments@epa.tas.gov.au) and your nominated contact officer.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc)

## Content of EER

### Part A – Proponent Information

Provide the following information regarding the proponent:

<b>Proponent entity name</b>	(Consistent with any intended or current permit application for the activity under the LUPAA)
<b>Proponent trading name</b>	
<b>Registered address of proponent</b>	
<b>Postal address of proponent</b>	
<b>ABN/ACN of proponent</b>	
<b>Contact person's details</b>	Name Telephone number Email address
<b>Consultant's details</b>	Name Telephone number Email address

If a different entity will operate the activity after construction, provide similar details for that entity also.

## Part B – Proposal Description

Where the proposal is subject to a permit application under the LUPAA, the proposal description and specification of the site must be consistent with the intended or current permit application. Any works or activity that are for the purpose of the proposal (e.g. access works) must be included.

### I Description of proposed activity

Complete the following tables and provide additional text, diagrams or flowcharts as required.

#### Proposed Activity

<b>Activity</b>	Provide a general description of the proposed activity, including the classification of the activity under Schedule 2 of the EMPCA.
<b>New or existing?</b>	State if this is an intensification/modification of an existing activity or a new activity.
<b>Maximum proposed material to be dredged</b>	State the intended amount in m <sup>3</sup> and tonnes of material proposed to be removed per annum.
<b>Method/s</b>	State the method(s) of dredging and main items of equipment involved and detail the proposed disposal method (s) for dredged material
<b>Area of disturbance</b>	State the maximum area of the site proposed to be disturbed/dredged during dredging operations
<b>Major equipment</b>	List all existing and proposed plant/machinery and other temporary or permanent equipment required for the activity.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	List the buildings, structures, access roads at the site, internal haul roads, etc.
<b>Proposal timeline</b>	State the key proposal timeline(s)
<b>Operating hours</b>	State the proposed operating hours and days and any seasonality or variation required to account for tides and water flow.

#### Location and planning context

<b>Location</b>	State the address of the site, and CTs and PIDs (as applicable) for all titles on which the activity will take place.
<b>Planning permit</b>	Confirm whether a Planning Permit is required under the LUPAA. If relevant provide written advice from Council stating a permit application is not required (as an appendix).
<b>Land zoning and tenure</b>	Describe the land zoning and tenure of the site and surrounds.

#### Description of site and surrounds

<b>Land use</b>	Describe the land use of the site and surrounds, distance to the nearest residences, and any nearby conservation reserves or recreation areas.
<b>Topography</b>	Describe the topography of the site and surrounds.
<b>Climate</b>	State the annual rainfall, average temperatures and predominant wind direction (provide wind roses if possible).
<b>Geology</b>	Describe the geology of the site.

<b>Soils</b>	Describe the sediments on the site and state whether there is potential to encounter acid sulphate soils and/or contaminated material.
<b>Hydrology</b>	Describe the waterbodies and aquatic values on site and in the surrounding area.
<b>Natural Values</b>	State any marine natural values including but not limited to recreational fishing, aquaculture and wild fisheries (commercial) resources. Marine values should extend downstream and include any areas likely to be of community interest. List the threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities known to occur on or near the site (use the Natural Values Atlas, TASVEG 4.0 <sup>3</sup> or results of a relevant survey) (if relevant).

## 2 Maps and site plan/s

To enhance understanding of the proposal, spatial information should be presented in maps, plans, diagrams and photographs. These must be of high quality and reproducible in monochrome with all text and relevant features clearly visible. Maps and plans should include a north arrow and scale. When spatial data (including maps, plans, grid coordinates and heights) are provided or referred to, the coordinate reference system must be specified. At a minimum, provide the following:

- **General Location Map** (1:25,000 or other suitable scale), showing the activity area, the nearest residences in other ownership, other sensitive uses<sup>4</sup> and residential zones within 1.5 km of the proposed activity.
- **Map of the Land** on which the activity will take place and its boundary, land title information, map coordinates or other. This figure may be combined with the Site Plan. The boundary of the Land should also be provided to the Board in a geospatial vector format (shapefile or DXF).
- **Site Plan(s)** showing:
  - the boundary of the site;
  - the location of existing and proposed buildings/structures and plant and machinery;
  - the planned staging of activities;
  - site management (proposed location of equipment, proposed release point for sediment, sediment curtains / other management, and monitoring points, as relevant);

## 3 Project rationale and alternatives

- Explain the rationale for the proposal.
- Evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of any alternative options that have been considered.

<sup>3</sup> Both can be accessed at: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/>

<sup>4</sup> Defined in the State Planning Provisions as 'a residential use or a use involving the presence of people for extended periods except in the course of their employment such as a caravan park, childcare centre, dwelling, hospital or school.'



## Part C – Environmental Impacts and Management

The EER should evaluate all potential impacts of the proposal, with the level of detail provided on each issue reflecting its level of significance. For each issue, describe how the impact assessment has been performed (for example, surveys or desktop studies). Describe the existing environment in relation to the impact, including the vulnerability of the potentially affected environment. Clearly articulate the potential impacts, identifying plausible worst-case scenarios and the reversibility of the impact. Then, describe the management or contingency measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset potential adverse impacts. Detail any specialist recommendations which have/will be implemented, or justify otherwise. Finally, analyse how and to what degree the impacts will have been avoided, minimised or offset, and any residual impacts.

### 1 Air quality

- Describe the potential sources of any air emissions, including dust.
- Evaluate the potential for environmental nuisance or harm to air quality, taking into consideration the:
  - distance to nearest residences;
  - prevailing winds and other climatic factors;
  - nature of the material removed and whether dewatering or disposal on land is proposed;
  - site layout (refer to the Site Plan).
- Describe the measures that will be employed to reduce the potential for environmental nuisance or harm to air quality.
- Is the proposal consistent with the *Tasmanian Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004*?

### 2 Water quality (surface, discharge and groundwater)

- Describe the waterbodies and aquatic values on site and in the surrounding area, including relevant Protected Environmental Values as per the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*:  
<https://epa.tas.gov.au/environment/water/pevs-for-tasmanian-surface-waters>
- Describe the potential impacts of the activity on the receiving environment, with specific consideration of sediment and waterway disturbance, environmental values and downstream water uses.
- The marine and intertidal sediments in the dredging and deposit area are considered high risk for Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS).

Provide a chemical and physical description of material/sediments to be dredged based on in situ sampling or existing data including;

- Estimated volumes and frequency
  - A description of any contaminants of concern and their ability to leach into the aquatic environment once disturbed.
  - Proposed treatment (if relevant)
  - Proposed monitoring (as relevant)
  - Potential impact on the receiving environment
- Describe management measures proposed to minimise impact on waterways and aquatic values.

- Provide a risk mitigation plan including trigger levels for sediment and water quality and proposed response plans should these be exceeded. The expectation would be no discernible water quality difference downstream of the discharge compared to upstream.
- Provide a description of likely sediment plumes during dredging operations based either on modelling or monitoring of previous dredging activities.
- Provide details of proposed water monitoring activities during dredging.
- Is the proposal consistent with the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*?

### 3 Noise emissions

- Discuss impacts of the proposal on background (surrounding) noise levels during dredging activities.
  - Identifying and describing all major sources of noise, taking into consideration
    - Hours of operations and frequency of operation
    - Topography
  - A map of the location/site plan of all major sources of noise and any noise sensitive premises<sup>5</sup>.
  - An assessment of the potential for noise emissions to cause nuisance at noise sensitive premises<sup>5</sup>.
  - Describe the potential for underwater noise impacts from dredging and other any activities associated with the proposal.
  - Describe any noise mitigation or attenuation measures that will be implemented to avoid causing nuisance at any noise sensitive premises.
  - Discuss any management plan that will be adopted to manage underwater noise impact from dredging and any other activities associated with the proposal..

### 4 Natural values (including marine)

- Is there any disturbance of native vegetation or potential habitat for native fauna proposed as part of the proposal? If so, include details of the nature of vegetation and habitat values to be disturbed, and the area affected (in hectares).
- Provide records from the Natural Values Atlas and TASVEG 4.0<sup>6</sup> of any listed threatened flora/fauna species or threatened vegetation communities on or near the site. If any are present, or if the site has potential habitat for any such species and vegetation clearance or disturbance is proposed, a detailed survey is likely to be required and the results should be presented in the EER.
- Impacts on aquatic species: the kanamaluka/Tamar River supports a variety of aquaculture operations and wild fisheries, which occur within and up to 30-35km north west of the proposal and rely on good water quality. Dredging has the potential to affect water quality by remobilising potentially contaminated sediments. Describe the potential impact to sensitive marine areas, conservation areas, or areas used for aquaculture, recreational or commercial fishing activities.

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<sup>5</sup> 'Noise sensitive premise' is defined as: residences and residential zones (whether occupied or not), schools, hospitals, caravan parks and similar land uses involving the presence of individual people for extended periods, except in the course of their employment or for recreation.

<sup>6</sup> Both can be accessed at: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/>

- Provide details of any surveys undertaken in accordance with the *Guidelines for Marine and Estuarine Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals*<sup>7</sup>.
- Describe any potential impacts to aquatic values communities from movement of dredging equipment/vessels.
- Describe the effects of the activity on marine and coastal processes, including wave patterns, sediment dynamics, currents and tidal flows including any potential for sediment remobilisation.
- Discuss how the proposal is consistent with the *Tasmanian State Coastal Policy 1996* and demonstrate the proposal is consistent with the objectives and requirements of all relevant marine and coastal policies and legislation, including the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*.
- Describe the management measures proposed to mitigate these impacts. It is recommended that the proposed works adhere to any relevant sediment control measures outlined in the 2021 *Sedimentation Review Report*<sup>8</sup>.

## 5 Weeds, pests and pathogens

- List the weeds<sup>9</sup>, pests and pathogens occurring on or near the site.
- Evaluate the potential for the activity to introduce or spread weeds and diseases to, from and within the site.
- Discuss the proposed management measures for preventing the spread of weeds, pests and pathogens (e.g. vehicle washdown procedures) (if relevant).

## 6 Waste

- Describe the solid and liquid waste that will be produced by the activity (e.g. any soils, Potentially Acid Forming or contaminated material, metal and machinery service wastes, used oils, general refuse).
- Describe the proposed methods for avoidance, reuse, recycling, treatment and disposal of waste.

## 7 Environmentally hazardous substances

- Detail the nature and quantity of any environmentally hazardous substances<sup>10</sup> that will be stored (permanently or temporarily) and/or handled on site. This includes fuels, oils, waste and chemicals.
- Describe the storage method and location of any environmentally hazardous substances and discuss the proposed management measures to prevent release and respond to accidental spills (e.g. provision of spill kits).
- Identify any dangerous goods<sup>11</sup> and controlled wastes<sup>12</sup> that will be present on the site, with reference to standard classification. Detail how they will be managed.

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<sup>7</sup> Available at: [Guidelines for Marine and Estuarine Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals.pdf \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> Available at: [kanamaluka - Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce](#)

<sup>9</sup> Plant species declared as a weed under the *Weed Management Act 1999*.

<sup>10</sup> 'Environmentally hazardous substance' is defined as: any substance or mixture of substances of a nature or held in quantities which present a reasonably foreseeable risk of causing serious or material environmental harm if released to the environment.

<sup>11</sup> As defined in the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail.

<sup>12</sup> Information on controlled waste identification and classification is available at: <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/regulation/waste-management/controlled-waste>

## **8 Environmental impacts of traffic**

- Provide details of the vehicle types, number of vehicle movements, times of movements and route(s) (if relevant).
- Evaluate the potential for transport to and from the site to cause a noise nuisance to residences and other noise sensitive premises in proximity to the Land, considering the type, volume and time of traffic associated with the proposal.

## **9 Other off-site impacts**

- Does the activity have the potential to generate any other off-site impacts that may affect the amenity of residences or other sensitive uses (such as schools and hospitals)? If yes, provide details. The location of all nearby residences or other sensitive uses must be clearly shown on the area map (see Part B).

## **10 Monitoring**

- Describe any proposed environmental monitoring and reporting for the activity including any water-based monitoring during dredging activities.
- Show all proposed monitoring points on the site plan (see Part B).

## **11 Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change**

- Describe how the proposal will implement best practice environmental management in energy consumption and in transport of materials to and from the proposed activity, to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

## Part D – Summary of Proposed Management Measures

This section should contain a table of the proposed measures for avoiding, minimising and managing the potential environmental impacts of the proposal (as identified in Part C). These should be written as specific, unambiguous statements of action (see example below).

Table I. Proposed management measures

No.	Proposed Management Measure	Timeframe
1	Design and install a sediment settling pond capable of containing runoff from a 1-in-20 year storm event as described in Part C, paragraph 2.6 [of the EER].	At least 30 days prior to commencement of operations.
2	Develop a solid waste management plan as described in Part C, paragraph 8.4 [of the EER].	Within three months of approval and prior to treatment or removal of any waste.
3	Erect a noise attenuation barrier as described in Part C, paragraph 9.2 [of the EER]	At least 30 days prior to commencement of operations.

## Part E – Public and Stakeholder Consultation

- Describe any public or stakeholder consultation that has taken place or is intended (such as with other government agencies, aquaculture operations or commercial fishery groups, community groups or neighbours).
- Provide details of the outcome or main findings of any community consultation.
- *Guidance on Community Engagement* is available on the EPA website at [Guidance Documents | EPA Tasmania](#).

## Appendix A: Other issues and agency contacts

In addition to a permit under LUPAA and EMPCA, there may be other legal requirements to allow your proposal to proceed, including other permits, licences or landowner consent. You may also need to contact other Government agencies to obtain information for the purpose of assessment.

Your proposal may have been referred to other agencies by EPA. If assessments or approvals outside of the Board's responsibilities are required, you should engage with the respective agency to progress them. The following list identifies some of the agencies you may need to contact:

### Conservation Assessments

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6165 4396

Email: [conservationassessments@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:conservationassessments@nre.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.nre.tas.gov.au/conservation](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/conservation)

Purpose: Natural values including flora, fauna, and geoconservation values, or permits to deal with threatened species.

### Heritage Tasmania

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6165 3700

Email: [enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.heritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au)

Purpose: Historic cultural heritage, including State-level site listings, impacts and permits as required under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. Where works are proposed in or near a heritage place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register or likely to be of heritage significance to the whole of Tasmania, and a permit is required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the proposal will be referred to Heritage Tasmania by the planning authority. There may also be additional sites listed under local planning schemes, impacts on which are assessed by the relevant planning authority.

### Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Telephone: 1300 487 045

Email: [aboriginalheritage@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:aboriginalheritage@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)

Purpose: Aboriginal heritage, including desktop assessment, artefact survey requirements, permits and advice.

### Parks and Wildlife – Property Services

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6169 9015

Email: [PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

Purpose: Impacts on parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife, or Crown land.

## **Agriculture and Water**

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: 1300 368 550

Email: [Water.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Water.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.nre.tas.gov.au/water](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/water)

Purpose: Water licences and works impacting natural waterway flow (e.g., dams or fords).

## **Transport Services**

Department of State Growth

Telephone: (03) 6166 3369

Email: [permits@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:permits@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au)

Purpose: State roads, including where any proposal requires works on or access from a State-managed road.

## **Mineral Resources Tasmania**

Department of State Growth

Telephone: (03) 6165 4800

Email: [info@mrt.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@mrt.tas.gov.au)

Website: [www.mrt.tas.gov.au](http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au)

Purpose: Mining Leases

