



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Transport**  
**Coastal Infrastructure**

8 September 2017

Manager  
Native Vegetation Conservation Branch  
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation  
Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square  
PERTH WA 6850

**PORT OF WYNDHAM – LETTER OF AUTHORITY FOR VEGETATION CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION AND LAND ACCESS WITHIN THE LEASE BOUNDARY**

Department of Transport (DoT) is required to undertake ongoing maintenance dredging at the Port of Wyndham (hereafter; the Port) in order to maintain safe navigable depths for vessels. To facilitate long-term planning for disposal of dredged material, DoT proposes to dispose material to an onshore land area within the Port lease boundary. This land is situated within Lots 719, 896 and part of Lot 600 located on Reserve 24041 of Lease ID 492. Disposal of dredged material to the aforementioned land areas requires approval of a Vegetation Clearing Purpose Permit.

The proposed onshore area is ~8.73 ha of which ~2.06 ha is comprised of vegetation that is predominantly mangal habitat and remaining habitat is represented by unvegetated mudflats (Figure 1). Mangal habitat in the proposed area is comprised of sparse mangrove stands dominated by the species *Avicennia marina* (Martinick McNulty Pty Ltd, 1998). Images of the representative vegetation types within the proposed onshore disposal area captured in March 2016 are provided in Attachment 1 (BMT Oceanica 2016). Intermittent salt marsh is present along the incised inlets and introduced shrubs and grasses fringe the boundary of the proposed onshore area. The proposed onshore disposal area is located within an active port that has been zoned for light industrial use, and is considered a disturbed system with limited ecological value (Martinick McNulty Pty Ltd, 1998). Mangrove communities within the proposed onshore disposal area are impacted from historical port operations and land development on the tidal mudflats subsequently altering coastal processes.



Notes:

1. Red perimeter = ~8.73 ha proposed area for onshore disposal
2. Green polygon = ~2.06 ha of vegetation clearance areas

**Figure 1 Port of Wyndham proposed onshore disposal and vegetation clearance area**

The lot boundaries of the proposed onshore disposal area are registered as "Contaminated" - Restricted Use (Commercial/Industrial) due to historic hydrocarbon concentrations in soils associated with previous site use as a fuel storage depot for ~35 years. A Detailed Health Risk Assessment indicated the contamination present does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health under the current commercial/industrial land use classification, and, provided future building construction is with slab on grade (i.e. without basements), it is anticipated the site is suitable for continued commercial/industrial use (DER 2017).

In recent years, several studies have been undertaken within the Port boundary to assess sediment/soil quality. Marine sediments proposed for onshore disposal were sampled in 2016 for metals, nutrients, acid sulfate soils, hydrocarbons, organotins and met the relevant Ecological Investigation Levels (EILs) and Health Investigation Levels (HILs) as per NEPC (2013) and DER (2014) (BMT Oceanica 2016). Soils from the



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receiving onshore environment are sampled quarterly as required by the Port operating company, Cambridge Gulf Limited, licence conditions (licence number L6367/1973/8). Soils sampled in 2015 met relevant EILs and HILs for metals with the exception of zinc at one site that slightly exceeded the calculated site specific EIL (CENRM 2015).

The proposed clearing and associated long-term master plan of the Port is consistent with the overall land use classification and ongoing light industrial zoning for the Port. The location of historical hydrocarbon contamination is generally void of native vegetation (Figure 1) and it is not anticipated disposal of cohesive clean marine sediments to existing surface soils will create an exposure pathway resultant in significant environmental impacts in an area that is otherwise exposed to natural flooding and tidal inundation.

This letter provides authority to BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd (BMT Oceanica) to apply for a Vegetation Clearing Purpose Permit on behalf of DoT as per the attached Form C2 to facilitate long-term disposal of dredged material. This letter also provides authority for BMT Oceanica, Cambridge Gulf Limited and other leaseholders/contractors to access the proposed clearing area and undertake vegetation clearing for dredge disposal purposes, pending approval. The DoT recognises that this vegetation clearing work will involve manual labour and machinery that will be coordinated by DoT's contractors.



**References:**

- BMT Oceanica (2016) Port of Wyndham – Dredging Environmental Impact Assessment. Prepared for Department of Transport and BMT JFA Consultants Pty Ltd by BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd, Report No. 1239\_004/1\_Rev2, Perth, Western Australia, March 2017
- CENRM (2015) Annual Environmental Report Wyndham Export Facility. Prepared for Cambridge Gulf Limited by CENRM, Albany, Western Australia, 2014
- DER (2014) Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites. Contaminated Sites Guidelines. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth, Western Australia, December 2014
- DER (2017) Contaminated Sites Database. Available from <https://secure.dec.wa.gov.au/contSites/showReport.cfm?extension=pdf&MESSAGE=0&tstmp=1503301738036> [Accessed 22 August 2017]
- Martinick McNulty Pty Ltd (1998) Port of Wyndham Remedial Action Plan. Prepared for Department of Transport by Martinick McNulty Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia, March 1998
- NEPC (2013) National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Amendment Measure 2013 (No. 1) National Environment Protection Council, 2013



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**Attachment 1: Representative vegetation types within proposed onshore disposal area, March 2016**

