



Ref: CPB 088/17
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Development Application No	010/V048/17
Applicant	Flinders Ports P/L
Description	Dredging to widen/deepen Outer Harbour channel with deposition of spoil 30km offshore
Location	Outer Harbour shipping channel and offshore
Council	Port Adelaide Enfield and Out-of-Council areas

I refer to the above development application forwarded to the Coast Protection Board (the Board) in accordance with Section 49 of the Development Act 1993.

The planning authority is required to have regard to this response prior to making a decision on the proposal.

In accord with part 43 of the *Development Regulations 2008*, a copy of the decision notification must be forwarded to the Board at the above address.

The following response is provided under delegated authority for the Board in compliance with its policies. Those policies are contained in the Board's Policy Document which is located on the following website:

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/Coast_Protection_Board/Policies_strategic_plans

More information on coastal development assessment and planning policy is contained in the Coastal Planning Information Package at:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/our-places/coasts>

Proposal

Dredging of channel, deposition of spoil, as detailed in the DA documentation.

Comments

Coast Protection Board Policy

As per the Coast Protection Board's Policy Document 2002, the Board seeks to:

- retain coastal open space

- minimise impacts of development on the coast
- maintain compact coastal settlements and restrain development ‘sprawl’ along the coastline
- protect scenic amenity
- protect coastal biodiversity
- minimise or stop development in areas subject to coastal hazards
- minimise future environmental protection costs
- minimise future protection costs by ensuring new development satisfies the Board's flooding and erosion policies
- conserve developed coastal areas for land uses that require a coastal location.

The Board’s policies are generally reflected in Council’s Development Plan.

Coastal Flooding and Erosion

The Board’s flooding and erosion policies are not relevant to this proposal.

Ecological issues

Coast Protection Board Policy 1.4 (e) states:

“The Board will seek to ensure that the siting and design of development on the coast minimises its impact on the environment, heritage and visual amenity of the coast.”

An extensive report addressing environmental impacts and a Framework Dredge Management Plan (DMP), amongst others issues, has been prepared by the applicants. This report itemises the coastal and environmental issues of interest to the Board.

The report references numerous previous studies, many of which were undertaken in association with the previous major dredging project of 2005. The Framework DMP more broadly addresses potential environmental impacts and seeks to address these through monitoring and an adaptive work regime.

The Board is satisfied with the intent of the Framework DMP, however, the specific details of the monitoring program both during and after works do not appear to have been established at this stage. From the information provided it also appears that there will be little post-dredging environmental monitoring for various environmentally sensitive and important sites at a distance from the spoil area but which still may be impacted by longer term sediment movements.

Timing of works

There is a short-term predicted impact on seagrasses and the marine environment adjacent the dredging and spoil sites as a result of a dispersed sediment plume from dredging and dumping operations. There is potential to minimise these impacts by the selection of the season for the work to be carried out. As a general rule, mid-summer should be avoided on shallow/intertidal seagrasses (stressful high light, temperature, reproduction activity & desiccation conditions occur), and mid-winter (when low temperatures coupled with relatively short photo-periods may inhibit recovery or slow growth, and exacerbate the effects of high turbidity). Autumn is a period when there is least stress in benthic communities and there is more resilience to the effects of less light caused by water turbidity from the dredging operation.

The Outer Harbour Channel Widening Project Development Application Report supports the Board’s view that Autumn is the preferred time to undertake works where there is the potential

of a dispersed sediment plume. However, the Report does not appear to specify that this will be the general timing of the works.

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary

Areas of the project fall within the area covered by the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*. The object of the *Act* is to protect the dolphin population and their natural habitat.

Contractors should be made aware of the *Adelaide Dolphin Act 2005* and that there is a general duty of care to ensure the protection of the dolphin population from direct physical harm including as a result of changes in water quality.

Coast Protection Board Response

1. The Coast Protection Board advises it has no objections to the proposed development however it makes the following recommendations:
 - That dredging be undertaken in autumn to minimise impacts on the marine environment.
 - That the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources' Coastal Management Branch be given the opportunity to provide input into the proposed environmental monitoring program.

2. Notwithstanding a detailed Dredge Management Plan, the Coast Protection Board advises there remains potential for widespread ecological impacts, both in the short and longer term, as a result of turbidity from the proposed dredging and disposal operations. Sensitive ecological systems in the wider region which may be impacted include the Section Bank, Barker Inlet – St Kilda Aquatic Reserve, St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve and Torrens Island Conservation Park.

Yours sincerely



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Delegate for Coast Protection Board