

## Dredge guideline

Issued November 2020

Application of this guideline will assist dredging proponents and licensees in meeting their general environmental duty under section 25 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, by demonstrating that all reasonable and practicable measures have been undertaken to minimise the potential for environmental harm. The guideline is available on the [EPA website](#).



### What does the guideline include?

- Explanation on what is dredging.
- Approvals required for dredging activity.
- EPA regulation of dredging.
- Environmental impacts associated with dredging.
- Broad-scale risk categorisation of environmental impacts.
- Information needed to assess dredge proposals.
- Advice on dredge management plans and monitoring programs.

### What benefits does the guideline deliver?

- Demonstrates how all reasonable and practicable measures can be undertaken to prevent or minimise any resulting environmental harm.
- Considers the risk and nature of the dredging activity for regulating dredging.
- Outlines a robust and transparent assessment process for dredge proposals that is risk based including the disposal of spoil at sea.
- Increases awareness of EPA expectations for managing environmental impacts
- Identifies a simplified process for routine maintenance dredging activity.
- Outlines community engagement expectations when neighbouring work is involved.



### What consultation was undertaken?

- Workshops with licensees and key government agencies to inform guideline content.
- A reference group established (consisting of dredge licensees, councils and other government agencies) to provide early feedback.
- Internal consultation within the EPA to ensure that all regulatory requirements are appropriately reflected within the guideline.

### Application of the guideline

- Development and licence applications, and dredge management plans and monitoring programs will need to be developed in accordance with the principles specified in the guideline.
- EPA will work with applicants and licensees to assist them in applying the guideline to their dredge campaign.
- EPA will review the guideline during the first 12 months to address any gaps or opportunities for improvement.

