



Fact sheet Dredging licence

ISSUING OF DREDGING LICENCE

On 12 March 2019, the Environment Protection Authority SA (EPA) issued a dredging licence, under the Environmental Protection Act 1993, to Flinders Ports. This licence details how the Outer Harbor Channel Widening project will implement and manage environmental controls in accordance with development approvals.

Flinders Ports and the dredge contractor will follow its Dredge Management Plan to comply with the requirements of the licence and will report regularly to the EPA on environmental management and monitoring activities. The community will also have access to environmental monitoring data and reports on the **Flinders Ports website**.

Dredging is scheduled to begin in June 2019 and expected to conclude in September 2019. If there are delays to the anticipated timeline, Flinders Ports will ensure works are completed within 6 months of commencement. Dredging will not take place in the summer months of December, January and February.

CONDITIONS OF THE DREDGING LICENCE

The conditions of the licence, which are fully supported by Flinders Ports, have been set to protect the marine environment and effectively minimise and manage the potential immediate and long-term impact of the dredging works.

General conditions include:

- A comprehensive environmental audit
- Thorough and ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, such as the EPA
- Real-time water quality monitoring and reporting, including triggers to manage turbidity levels within defined limits at all times. Environmental monitoring data during dredging will be shared on the Flinders Ports website
- Works to be managed and monitored by a comprehensive, EPA approved Dredge Management Plan, Environmental Monitoring Program and Water Quality Monitoring Plan
- Implementing an improved dredge method compared to the 2005 Outer Harbor Channel Deepening project, which is anticipated to significantly reduce sediment plumes
- Tracking vessel movements and unloading
- Conducting before and after surveys of seagrass coverage and density
- Providing a Significant Environmental Benefit Payment for seagrass loss recorded post-dredging
- Monitoring by Marine Mammal Observers to minimise risks to marine mammals

Additional conditions have been set for minimising the risk of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) spreading beyond the Port River and managing biosecurity risks.

Dredge material will be transported and placed at the approved placement area 30km southwest of Outer Harbor in the Gulf St Vincent (previously used for the 2005 dredging program).

The dredge area and the dredge material placement area will both be surveyed prior to the start of dredging and upon completion to confirm the volumes of material removed and deposited in the Gulf.

The equipment to be used for dredging and dredge material placement is:

- One Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge
- One Backhoe Dredge working with two Split Hull Barges
- Bed leveller

No side casting of dredge material, which creates additional turbidity, will take place.



TRAILING SUCTION HOPPER DREDGE

The Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge scrapes over seabeds to loosen and collect sediment. The sediment water mixture is brought up through the suction pipe and pumped into the hopper well. Dredge material settles in the hopper and excess water is released through the overflow system via a green valve which further reduces turbidity levels.



BACKHOE DREDGE

The Backhoe Dredge is a mechanical dredge, excavating material from the seabed with a bucket and placing the material into the Split Hull Barges which are then transported to the placement area in the Gulf. The Backhoe Dredge will be utilised to remove harder materials that cannot be removed by the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge.

DREDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Dredge Management Plan will incorporate the following management, mitigation and monitoring measures to be implemented throughout the Outer Harbor Channel Widening project:

- **Turbidity:** monitoring turbidity and enabling real-time alarms which trigger the dredge contractor to implement management actions to reduce turbidity
- **Caulerpa Taxifolia:** a plan to manage *Caulerpa taxifolia* within the dredge area, if present
- **Spills management:** fuel, waste and chemical spill management plans
- **Vessel location tracking:** all vessels used for dredging will be fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) unit to accurately manage and monitor their location and dredge material placement activities at all times
- **Marine mammals:** minimising risks to marine mammals, including Marine Mammal Observers working with the dredge team
- **Biofouling:** minimising the risks of biofouling and spread of non-native aquatic species by inspecting and thoroughly cleaning dredge equipment prior to arrival in Australia
- **Noise:** preventing or minimising noise resulting from dredging
- **POMS:** working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to establish measures to manage POMS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Flinders Ports has committed to ongoing stakeholder and community engagement, guided by a Community Engagement Plan.

Consultation commenced prior to the licence being issued and will continue throughout the course of the project. A structured complaints and resolution management process is in place, which includes regular reporting back to the EPA on issues raised.

The Community Engagement Plan is available on the Flinders Ports website.