



Referral of proposed action

What is a referral?

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) provides for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance (NES). Under the EPBC Act, a person must not take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters of NES without approval from the Australian Government Environment Minister or the Minister's delegate. (Further references to 'the Minister' in this form include references to the Minister's delegate.) To obtain approval from the Environment Minister, a proposed action should be referred. The purpose of a referral is to obtain a decision on whether your proposed action will need formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Your referral will be the principal basis for the Minister's decision as to whether approval is necessary and, if so, the type of assessment that will be undertaken. These decisions are made within 20 business days, provided sufficient information is provided in the referral.

Who can make a referral?

Referrals may be made by or on behalf of a person proposing to take an action, the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency, a state or territory government, or agency, provided that the relevant government or agency has administrative responsibilities relating to the action.

When do I need to make a referral?

A referral must be made for actions that are likely to have a significant impact on the following matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act:

- World Heritage properties (sections 12 and 15A)
- National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)
- Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)
- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
- Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)
- Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
- The environment, if the action involves Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A), including:
 - actions that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land (even if taken outside Commonwealth land);
 - actions taken on Commonwealth land that may have a significant impact on the environment generally;
- The environment, if the action is taken by the Commonwealth (section 28)
- Commonwealth Heritage places outside the Australian jurisdiction (sections 27B and 27C)

You may still make a referral if you believe your action is not going to have a significant impact, or if you are unsure. This will provide a greater level of certainty that Commonwealth assessment requirements have been met.

To help you decide whether or not your proposed action requires approval (and therefore, if you should make a referral), the following guidance is available from the Department's website:

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance. Additional sectoral guidelines are also available.

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies.
- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources.
- the interactive map tool (enter a location to obtain a report on what matters of NES may occur in that location).

Can I refer part of a larger action?

In certain circumstances, **the Minister may not accept a referral for an action that is a component of a larger action and may request the person proposing to take the action to refer the larger action for consideration under the EPBC Act (Section 74A, EPBC Act)**. If you wish to make a referral for a staged or component referral, read 'Fact Sheet 6 Staged Developments/Split Referrals' and contact the Referrals Gateway (1800 803 772).

Do I need a permit?

Some activities may also require a permit under other sections of the EPBC Act or another law of the Commonwealth. Information is available on the Department's web site.

Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

If your action is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park it may require permission under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (GBRMP Act). If a permission is required, referral of the action under the EPBC Act is deemed to be an application under the GBRMP Act (see section 37AB, GBRMP Act). This referral will be forwarded to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) for the Authority to commence its permit processes as required under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983. If a permission is not required under the GBRMP Act, no approval under the EPBC Act is required (see section 43, EPBC Act). The Authority can provide advice on relevant permission requirements applying to activities in the Marine Park.

The Authority is responsible for assessing applications for permissions under the GBRMP Act, GBRMP Regulations and Zoning Plan. Where assessment and approval is also required under the EPBC Act, a single integrated assessment for the purposes of both Acts will apply in most cases. Further information on environmental approval requirements applying to actions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is available from <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/> or by contacting GBRMPA's Environmental Assessment and Management Section on (07) 4750 0700.

The Authority may require a permit application assessment fee to be paid in relation to the assessment of applications for permissions required under the GBRMP Act, even if the permission is made as a referral under the EPBC Act. Further information on this is available from the Authority:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street PO Box 1379

Townsville QLD 4810

AUSTRALIA

Phone: + 61 7 4750 0700

Fax: + 61 7 4772 6093

www.gbrmpa.gov.au

What information do I need to provide?

Completing all parts of this form will ensure that you submit the required information and will also assist the Department to process your referral efficiently. If a section of the referral document is not applicable to your proposal enter N/A.

You can complete your referral by entering your information into this Word file.

Instructions

Instructions are provided in blue text throughout the form.

Attachments/supporting information

The referral form should contain sufficient information to provide an adequate basis for a decision on the likely impacts of the proposed action. You should also provide supporting documentation, such as environmental reports or surveys, as attachments.

Coloured maps, figures or photographs to help explain the project and its location should also be submitted with your referral. Aerial photographs, in particular, can provide a useful perspective and context. Figures should be good quality as they may be scanned and viewed electronically as black and white documents. Maps should be of a scale that clearly shows the location of the proposed action and any environmental aspects of interest.

Please ensure any attachments are below three megabytes (3mb) as they will be published on the Department's website for public comment. To minimise file size, enclose maps and figures as separate files if necessary. If unsure, contact the Referrals Gateway (email address below) for advice. Attachments larger than three megabytes (3mb) may delay processing of your referral.

Note: the Minister may decide not to publish information that the Minister is satisfied is commercial-in-confidence.

How do I pay for my referral?

From 1 October 2014 the Australian Government commenced cost recovery arrangements for environmental assessments and some strategic assessments under the EPBC Act. If an action is referred on or after 1 October 2014, then cost recovery will apply to both the referral and any assessment activities undertaken. Further information regarding cost recovery can be found on the [Department's website](#).

Payment of the referral fee can be made using one of the following methods:

- **EFT Payments can be made to:**

BSB: 092-009
Bank Account No. 115859
Amount: \$7352
Account Name: Department of the Environment.
Bank: Reserve Bank of Australia
Bank Address: 20-22 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2601
Description: The reference number provided (see note below)

- **Cheque** - Payable to "Department of the Environment". Include the reference number provided (see note below), and if posted, address:

The Referrals Gateway
Environment Assessment Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

- **Credit Card**

Please contact the Collector of Public Money (CPM) directly (call (02) 6274 2930 or 6274 20260 and provide the reference number (see note below).

Note: in order to receive a reference number, submit your referral and the Referrals Gateway will email you the reference number.

How do I submit a referral?

Referrals may be submitted by mail or email.

Mail to:

Referrals Gateway
Environment Assessment Branch
Department of Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

- If submitting via mail, electronic copies of documentation (on CD/DVD or by email) are required.

Email to: epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au

- Clearly mark the email as a 'Referral under the EPBC Act'.
- Attach the referral as a Microsoft Word file and, if possible, a PDF file.
- **Follow up with a mailed hardcopy including copies of any attachments or supporting reports.**

What happens next?

Following receipt of a valid referral (containing all required information) you will be advised of the next steps in the process, and the referral and attachments will be published on the Department's web site for public comment.

The Department will write to you within 20 business days to advise you of the outcome of your referral and whether or not formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required. There are a number of possible decisions regarding your referral:

The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NOT NEED approval

No further consideration is required under the environmental assessment provisions of the EPBC Act and the action can proceed (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements).

The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact IF undertaken in a particular manner

The action can proceed if undertaken in a particular manner (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements). The particular manner in which you must carry out the action will be identified as part of the final decision. You must report your compliance with the particular manner to the Department.

The proposed action is LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NEED approval

If the action is likely to have a significant impact a decision will be made that it is a *controlled action*. The particular matters upon which the action may have a significant impact (such as World Heritage values or threatened species) are known as the *controlling provisions*.

The controlled action is subject to a public assessment process before a final decision can be made about whether to approve it. The assessment approach will usually be decided at the same time as the controlled action decision. (Further information about the levels of assessment and basis for deciding the approach are available on the Department's web site.)

The proposed action would have UNACCEPTABLE impacts and CANNOT proceed

The Minister may decide, on the basis of the information in the referral, that a referred action would have clearly unacceptable impacts on a protected matter and cannot proceed.

Compliance audits

If a decision is made to approve a project, the Department may audit it at any time to ensure that it is completed in accordance with the approval decision or the information provided in the referral. If the project changes, such that the likelihood of significant impacts could vary, you should write to the Department to advise of the changes. If your project is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and a decision is made to approve it, the Authority may also audit it. (See "*Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*," p.2, for more details).

For more information

- call the Department of the Environment Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772 or
- visit the web site <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999>

All the information you need to make a referral, including documents referenced in this form, can be accessed from the above web site.

Referral of proposed action

Project title: Maroochy River Dredging Event 2016

1 Summary of proposed action

1.1 Short description

Dredging of clean sand from the Maroochy River mouth for the purposes of placement on the foreshore between the Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Clubs. Dredging to be undertaken March 2016.

1.2 Latitude and longitude

| | | Latitude | Longitude |
|--|---|------------|------------|
| Dredge footprint shown in Figure 2-1. Latitude and longitude provided show points used as part of Protected Mapping Search Tool. | 1 | -26.653341 | 153.096378 |
| | 2 | -26.653322 | 153.096378 |
| | 3 | -26.647281 | 153.097751 |
| | 4 | -26.645593 | 153.103674 |
| | 5 | -26.650656 | 153.105219 |

1.3 Locality and property description

Dredging to be undertaken in Maroochy River mouth (Sunshine Coast, Queensland), targeting intertidal and subtidal sandbanks and sandbars. Material to be placed above and below the high water mark along the foreshore between Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Clubs.

1.4 Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)

Dredge footprint: ~6.5ha
Placement area: ~8.8ha

1.5 Street address of the site

n/a

1.6 Lot description

n/a

1.7 Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)

Sunshine Coast Council

Simon Aalbers
Principal Development Engineer
Engineering and Environment Assessment
E: simon.aalbers@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

1.8 Time frame

March 2016

1.9 Alternatives to proposed action

Were any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) considered but are not proposed?

✓

No

Yes, you must also complete section 2.2

1.10 Alternative time frames etc

✓

No

| | | | |
|------|---|---|--|
| | Does the proposed action include alternative time frames, locations or activities? | | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.3. For each alternative, location, time frame, or activity identified, you must also complete details in Sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4-2.7 and 3.3 (where relevant). |
| 1.11 | State assessment Is the action subject to a state or territory environmental impact assessment? | ✓ | No |
| | | | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.5 |
| 1.12 | Component of larger action Is the proposed action a component of a larger action? | | No |
| | | ✓ | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.7 |
| 1.13 | Related actions/proposals Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region (if known)? | | No |
| | | ✓ | Yes, provide details: |
| 1.14 | Australian Government funding Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project? | ✓ | No |
| | | | Yes, provide details: |
| 1.15 | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Is the proposed action inside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park? | ✓ | No |
| | | | Yes, you must also complete Section 3.1 (h), 3.2 (e) |

2 Detailed description of proposed action

2.1 Description of proposed action

The action will consist of accessing 20,000m³ of sand from the Maroochy River mouth to nourish the ocean beach between Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Clubs. Figure 2-1 shows the location of both the dredge and placement footprint. The proponent is the Sunshine Coast Council. This volume is intended to be accessed as a once off event in March 2016 for the purpose of providing a resilient and safe beach (and beach access) for the Surf Lifesaving Championships to be held Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 April 2016 between the Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Clubs.

The works will involve accessing sand in accordance with existing local, state and federal approvals. Dredging in the Maroochy River was previously approved in 2012 and deemed not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner (EPBC Ref: 2012/6396). However, as the works will be conducted in March 2016 they are deemed to fall outside the approval granted under EPBC Ref: 2012/6396. This approval required works to be undertaken May to September inclusive only.

For this reason, the March 2016 event is being referred as a single event. Sand accessed for the event is not in addition to that already allocated to dredging in the Maroochy River (i.e. the existing allocation includes the March 2016 event).

NOTE: The March 2016 dredging event will only occur if deemed necessary following the 2015/2016 storm season. If sufficient sand remains on the foreshore during this time, it may be unnecessary to access the proposed full volume of sand (if any at all) from the Maroochy River for the purposes of nourishment. However, for the purposes of this referral, the description of the project and activities has been prepared on the basis that the event will occur.

2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

There is no alternative to taking the action.

2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

There are no alternative locations or timeframes to those proposed.

2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

Dredging within the Maroochy River is already approved by the Queensland Government and SCC subsequent to approvals obtained in 2012. These approvals limit dredging to the months of May to September (inclusive). In conjunction with this referral, an amendment to these approvals is being sought to allow for a once off event in March 2016 to access 20,000m³ of sand.

An amendment to the 2012 approval was also received in mid-2015. This provided a minor amendment in the dredge footprint, to avoid disturbing unclean/silty sands in the estuary.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

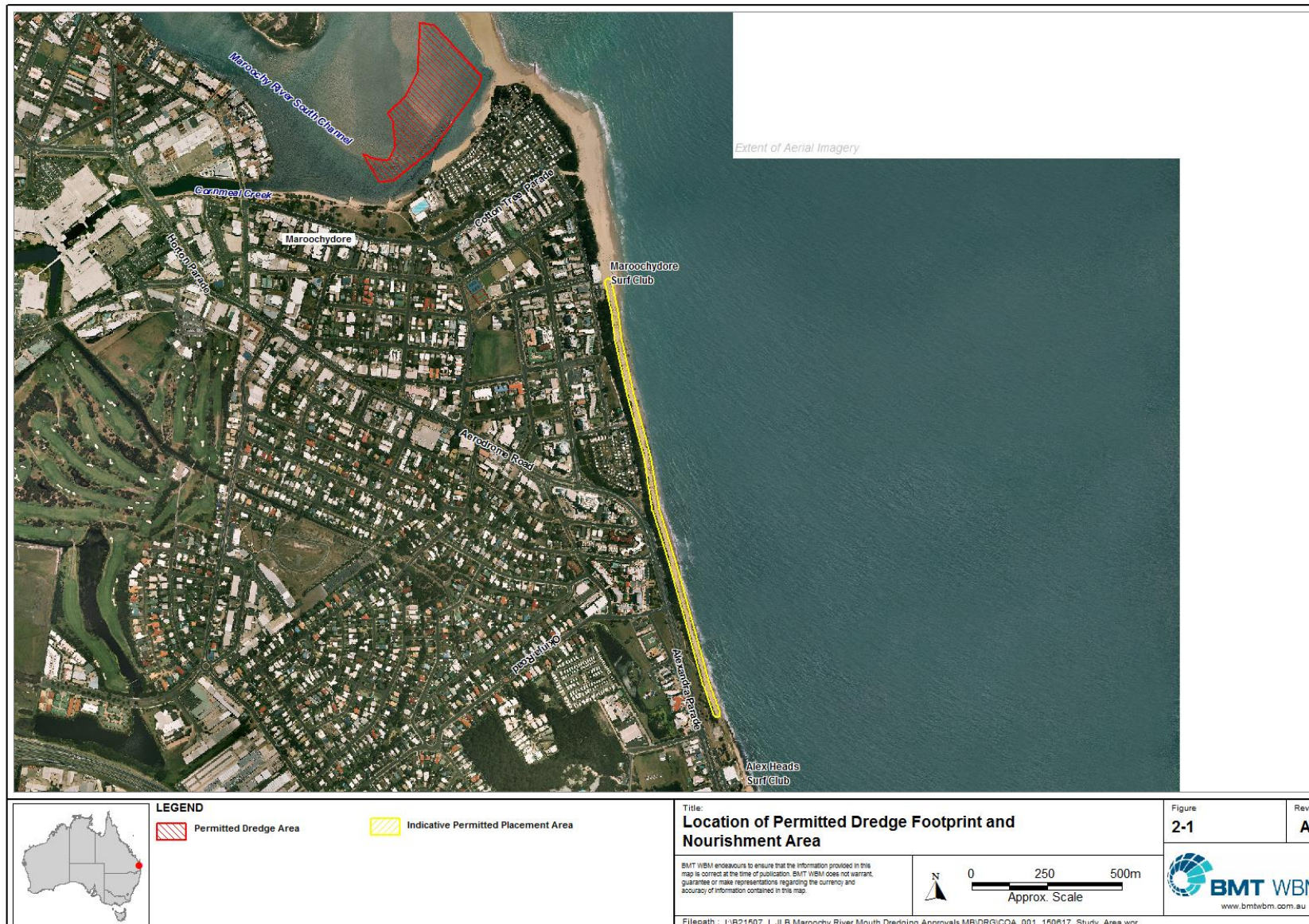
There is no environmental impact assessment associated with the action.

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

As part of the original development application, the Maroochy River dredging was made available to the public for consultation and submissions.

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project

As noted above, the March 2016 dredging event involves accessing material already approved for dredging in the Maroochy River. This event has been referred separately, however, due to the need to access material beyond the timeframe provided for in the original approval.



3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

n/a

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

n/a

3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)

n/a

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Description

The protected matters search tool (PMST) identified 53 listed threatened species as potentially occurring within the project area. Based on a survey of habitat requirements and historical surveys, only three species have been identified as potentially affected by the dredging event. These species have been summarised in Table 3-1 below.

No listed threatened ecological communities occur within the dredging or placement areas.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Table 3-1 below describes the potential impacts to listed threatened species.

Table 3-1 Description of occurrence and environmental effect on listed threatened species

| Species | Status | Description of occurrence and environmental effect |
|--|------------|--|
| Australian painted snipe (<i>Rostratula australis</i>) | Endangered | While not known from the Maroochy River estuary, individuals may be supported by intertidal foraging habitat utilised by other waders and shorebirds. Dredging activities may disturb any individuals foraging within the estuary at the time. However, high priority foraging areas identified through previous wader and shorebird studies (summarised under 3.1(e) below) are located further north and west in the estuary and will not be impacted by dredging activities. |
| Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) | Endangered | Loggerhead and green turtles are known to occur within Moreton Bay to the south. Occasional foraging and transit may occur in waters offshore of the Maroochy River, with rare instances of individuals occupying the estuary. In addition, the ocean beaches to the north and south of the Maroochy River are potential turtle nesting areas, albeit extremely rare. |
| Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) | Vulnerable | Dredging is not expected to impact on individuals given the extremely rare occurrence of turtles in the Maroochy River estuary. Placement activities may cause some impact to any turtles that may be nesting on the foreshore at the time of placement. This can be mitigated through pre-placement surveys and ongoing monitoring of beaches. Impacts are not likely to occur given the extremely rare occurrence of turtles nesting on the beach. |

As noted in Table 3-1, no significant impact is expected to any listed threatened species or ecological community.

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species

Description

The PMST identified 61 listed migratory species as potentially occurring within the project area. Previous studies by the Queensland Wader Study Group (2009-2013) have confirmed the presence of a number of migratory shorebirds and waders in the Maroochy River estuary. In addition, as noted above, green and loggerhead turtles are known to occur in Moreton Bay to the south and may occur on rare occasions within the Maroochy River estuary. Table 3-2 summarises the occurrence of these species.

All other migratory species listed on the PMST results are not expected to be affected by the dredging activities.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Table 3-2 summarises the potential impacts to listed migratory species. The key impacts to consider are related to migratory shorebirds and waders. These species are known to utilise part of the dredging area for foraging activities. However, the dredging area has been identified by the Queensland Wader Study Group as the least important of foraging and roosting sites in the Maroochy River, with preferred sites occurring to the north and west. In addition, feeding activities are most critical during April, following the completion of the March 2016 event.

Habitat areas referred to in Table 3-2 are shown in Figure 3-1.

In accordance with draft EPBC Act policy statement 3.21, *Significant impact guidelines for 36 migratory shorebird species*, the Maroochy River estuary would be identified as important habitat where it supported 15 or more of the 36 migratory shorebird species listed in the statement. While 15 migratory shorebird/wader species have been identified for the estuary based on studies by the Queensland Wader Study Group (see Table 3-2) only 10 of these have been identified within the list of 36 provided in the policy statement. However, it is possible that other shorebirds may occur within the estuary from time to time based on counts within the Noosa River and Pumicestone Passage habitat areas (north and south of the Maroochy River). Taking a risk based approach, therefore, it is possible that the Maroochy River estuary is 'important habitat' for the purpose of EPBC Act policy statement 3.21 and the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1.

Where the Maroochy River estuary is important habitat, the March 2016 dredging event would cause a significant impact if it led to any of the following:

- Loss of important habitat resulting in a reduction in the capacity of the habitat to support migratory shorebirds
- Degradation of important habitat, increased disturbance, or direct mortality of birds, all leading to a substantial reduction in migratory shorebirds using the site. This takes into account number of migratory shorebirds historically using a site, likely resultant changes in bird numbers and species diversity, alterations to the value, quality, geographic extent of the site, function and role of the site (e.g. roosting, foraging) and likely changes in ecology and hydrology, the regional and local context of the site, and the nature, extent, duration of impacts and likelihood of consequence.

These significant criteria are considered in the context of species impact in Table 3-2



Table 3-2 Description of occurrence and environmental effects on listed migratory species

| Species | Description of occurrence and environmental effect |
|--|---|
| Australian painted snipe (<i>Rostratula australis</i>) | While not known from the Maroochy River estuary, individuals may be supported by intertidal foraging habitat utilised by other waders and shorebirds. Dredging activities may disturb any individuals foraging within the estuary at the time. However, high priority foraging areas identified through previous wader and shorebird studies (see Figure 3-1) are located further north and west in the estuary and will not be impacted by dredging activities. |
| Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) | <p>All of these shorebird and wader species have been confirmed as occurring within the Maroochy River estuary based on surveys conducted by the Queensland Wader Study Group 2009-2013. There are five key foraging and roosting habitat areas for these species in the estuary on all tides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Pincushion Island/Spit – important site for roosting, however roosting value at this site is currently limited by pedestrian access, especially pedestrians with dogs B. Maroochy River Mouth (i.e. dredge footprint) – important site for roosting and foraging at low tide, however overall value is limited by higher flows through this area which limits access to macroinvertebrates and other foraging values C. Goat Island (East) – site of high importance for foraging, especially at low tide, due to abundance of foraging resources D. Goat Island (West) – site of high importance for foraging, especially at low tide, due to abundance of foraging resources E. Nojoor Street sandbanks – important site for roosting and foraging at low tide <p>These sites are shown in Figure 3-1.</p> <p>Dredging at site B is not expected to have a significant impact on shorebirds due to the lower value of this site to foraging shorebirds. Loss of shorebird access to intertidal sand in this area during dredging will not represent a loss impacting on the overall value of the Maroochy River estuary to shorebirds. Given the proximity of high value foraging locations at sites C and D, birds disturbed at site B are expected to simply transit to these other locations. Surveys conducted subsequent to the commencement of dredging in 2013 have not indicated any decrease in shorebird numbers or foraging activities as a result of dredging activities.</p> <p>This conclusion is supported by a statement by a representative of the Queensland Wader Study Group, Jill Denning (2015), who is the leading expert for shorebirds and waders in the Maroochy River estuary. This statement is provided in Attachment 2.</p> |
| Sharp-tailed sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>) | |
| Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) | |
| Red-necked stint (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>) | |
| Great knot (<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>) | |
| Red-capped plover (<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>) | |
| White-winged tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>) | |
| Caspian tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>) | |
| Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) | |
| Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) | |
| Eastern curlew (<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>) | |
| Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>) | |
| Pacific golden plover (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>) | |
| Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | |
| Grey-tailed tattler (<i>Tringa brevipes</i>) | |
| Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) | <p>Loggerhead and green turtles are known to occur within Moreton Bay to the south. Occasional foraging and transit may occur in waters offshore of the Maroochy River, with rare instances of individuals occupying the estuary. In addition, the ocean beaches to the north and south of the Maroochy River are potential turtle nesting areas, albeit extremely rare.</p> <p>Dredging is not expected to impact on individuals given the extremely rare occurrence of turtles in the Maroochy River estuary. Placement activities</p> |
| Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| | may cause some impact to any turtles that may be nesting on the foreshore at the time of placement. This can be mitigated through pre-placement surveys and ongoing monitoring of beaches. Impacts are not likely to occur given the extremely rare occurrence of turtles nesting on the beach. |
|--|---|

As noted in Table 3-2, no significant impact is expected to any listed migratory species.

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area

n/a

3.1 (g) Commonwealth land

n/a

3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

n/a

3.1 (i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development

n/a

3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (a) | Is the proposed action a nuclear action? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes (provide details below) |
| If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment | | | |
| 3.2 (b) | Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes (provide details below) |
| If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment | | | |
| 3.2 (c) | Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes (provide details below) |
| If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f)) | | | |
| 3.2 (d) | Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes (provide details below) |
| If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g)) | | | |
| 3.2 (e) | Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes (provide details below) |
| If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h)) | | | |

3.3 Other important features of the environment

3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

The sand placement area consists of foredune vegetation communities, supporting local dune grasses, casuarinas and other dune vegetation. This provides habitat to local flora and fauna species. Previous surveys, however, have not identified any threatened or migratory species occupying this area. Placement activities are unlikely to have any significant impact on the habitat in these areas as sand is placed seaward of the toe of the foredune.

The Maroochy River estuary is important habitat for fish species. North of the dredging footprint is the Maroochy River Fish Habitat Area (FHA) and fish movement is known throughout the estuary. No seagrass or other marine plants are known in the estuary, however.

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

The dredge footprint is within the Maroochy River estuary which is tidal. The vicinity of the footprint is subject to high flows given proximity to the river mouth.

3.3 (c) Soil and Vegetation characteristics

Sediment in the dredge footprint consists of clean sand, as indicated by previous testing (prior to 2012 application) and recent dredging activities. This material matches that found in the sand placement area.

3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features

n/a

3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation

There is remnant vegetation on Goat Island and the northern half of the sand placement area, as shown in Figure 3-1. This consists of RE 12.1.3 (mangrove shrubland to low closed forest on marine clay plains and estuaries) and RE 12.2.14 (foredune complex). Both communities are least concern under the Queensland *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)

Dredging occurs in intertidal and sub-tidal areas, to a depth necessary to access the required volume of sand.

3.3 (g) Current state of the environment

The environment within the dredging footprint is robust and resilient. There is little evidence of contamination or other impacts in this area.

The foreshore between Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Clubs is a subject to strong erosive forces and thus varies in condition depending upon prevailing climate and weather conditions. At the time of dredging, the foreshore is expected to be moderately to heavily eroded as a result of summer storms, with erosion threatening stability of some foredune vegetation and beach access areas. During heavy erosion, indurated sands ('coffee rock') is exposed along the beach front.

3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values

n/a

3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values

n/a

3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment

Goat Island forms part of the Maroochy River Conservation Park, a protected area under the Queensland *Nature conservation Act 1994*.

3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

Unallocated state land

3.3 (l) Existing land/marine uses of area

Within the dredging footprint there is very minimal existing recreational or other use given. Some sailing and other boat-based activities may occur on occasion. No swimming or other primary recreational activities occur.

The foreshore for nourishment is commonly used, especially in the vicinity of the surf clubs and beach access points, for primary recreation such as swimming and surfing. The foreshore is also used by pedestrians.

3.3 (m) Any proposed land/marine uses of area

The ocean beaches between Maroochy and Alexandra Headland Surf Clubs will be the host of the 2016 Surf Lifesaving Championships.

4 Environmental outcomes

Consistent with draft EPBC Act policy statement 3.21, the following environmental outcomes have been identified as suitable for the March 2016 dredging event:

- No reduction in the capacity of the Maroochy River estuary to support migratory shorebirds
- No degradation of the Maroochy River estuary leading to a substantial reduction in migratory shorebirds using the site
- No increased disturbance in the Maroochy River estuary leading to a substantial reduction in migratory shorebirds using the site
- No direct mortality of birds leading to a substantial reduction in migratory shorebirds using the Maroochy River estuary

Adopting these outcomes is consistent with the intention of March 2016 dredging event and addresses the key MNES values present within the project area.

5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

As noted in Section 3, the key potential impact is to migratory waders and shorebirds. While impacts to these species are not expected to be significant as a result of the presence of more suitable foraging and roosting habitat in the Maroochy River estuary, SCC has proposed the following actions:

- *Buffer* – to maximise the buffer between the dredging works and shallow intertidal sandbanks where shorebirds have been observed and are most likely to be present, the footprint for the March 2016 event will target the seaward extent of the currently approved dredge area. This location has relatively low value to shorebird roosting and feeding due to the dynamic morphology of the spit.
- *Survey and Monitoring* – the SCC will commit to undertaking further shorebird surveys prior to the works, during the works (including observations of any negative interactions between the dredge operation and feeding or resting shorebirds) and immediately following works by a suitably qualified ornithologist or local avifauna expert.
- *Restriction of Access to Provide Additional Respite* – if shorebirds are present and disturbed or displaced by the proposed March 2016 dredge event, they will likely seek respite at adjacent areas. These are likely to include the adjacent areas of the sand spit, Goat Island or the Maroochy north shore. As an additional mitigation measure, SCC will commit to restriction of access to the Pincushion Island/Spit area from pedestrian traffic such that any birds that seek respite in these areas have additional protection from human (and dog) disturbance during the works.

In addition, it is proposed that a detailed survey and inspection of the beach nourishment site will also be undertaken to search for any bird or turtle nests prior to nourishment works being undertaken. If any nests or juvenile animals (chicks or hatchlings) are identified on the upper beach or dune areas they will be immediately marked, and the proposed nourishment works shifted to avoid the nesting areas or provide an adequate buffer zone. Where this is not possible, remedial works will be undertaken to transplant nests and animals to a safer location.

6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

Identify whether or not you believe the action is a controlled action (ie. whether you think that significant impacts on the matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act are likely) and the reasons why.

6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

- ☒ No, complete section 5.2
- ☐ Yes, complete section 5.3

6.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

As noted in Section 3, the key MNES value that could be impacted by the March 2016 dredging event is migratory shorebirds and waders. Given that the dredging will occur in an area chosen to cause least disturbance to these species and the availability of alternative foraging, roosting and respite areas within the Maroochy River estuary, any effects on these species is expected to be minimal.

This conclusion is also supported by a representative of the Queensland Wader Study Group, as shown in Attachment 2.

6.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

Matters likely to be impacted

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C) |

7 Environmental record of the responsible party

| | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| 7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Provide details | ✓ | |
| 7.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources? If yes, provide details | | ✓ |
| 7.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework? If yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework | n/a | |
| 7.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act? Provide name of proposal and EPBC reference number (if known) In part – EPBC Ref: 2012/6396 | ✓ | |

8 Information sources and attachments

(For the information provided above)

8.1 References

8.2 Reliability and date of information

8.3 Attachments

| | | ✓ attached | Title of attachment(s) |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|---|
| You must attach | figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1) | ✓ | Figure 2-1 and 3-1 (included in referral) |
| | GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1) | | |
| | figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3) | ✓ | Figure 2-1 and 3-1 (included in referral) |
| If relevant, attach | copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.5) | n/a | |
| | copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.6) | n/a | |
| | copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3) | n/a | |
| | technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4) | ✓ | Attachment 1: <i>M.B21507.001.Secondary Dredge Event</i> Attachment 2: Jill Denning Letter of Support |
| | report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders (section 3) | n/a | |

9 Contacts, signatures and declarations

Project title: Maroochy River Dredging Event, March 2016

9.1 Person proposing to take action

1. Name and Title:

Michael Anderson

2. Organisation:

Sunshine Coast Council

3. EPBC Referral Number

4: ACN / ABN: 37 876 973 913

5. Postal address Locked Bag 72, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre QLD 4560

6. Telephone: (07) 5420 8948

7. Email: Michael.Anderson@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

8. Name of designated proponent (if not the same person at item 1 above **and if applicable**):

9. ACN/ABN of designated proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above):

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE FEE(S) THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PAYABLE

I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

- ☐ an individual; OR
- ☐ a small business entity (within the meaning given by section 328-110 (other than subsection 328-119(4)) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*); OR
- ☐ not applicable.

If you are small business entity you must provide the Date/Income Year that you became a small business entity:

Note: You must advise the Department within 10 business days if you cease to be a small business entity. Failure to notify the Secretary of this is an offence punishable on conviction by a fine (regulation 5.23B(3) *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth)).

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER

I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the [EPBC Regulations](#). Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you

- ☐ not applicable.

about the applicant (if
not you) the grounds on
which the waiver is
sought and the reasons
why it should be made:

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached
to this form is complete, current and correct.

I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

I agree to be the proponent for this action.

I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other
person or entity.

Signature



Date

26/10/15

9.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

Individual or organisation who has prepared the information contained in this referral form.

Name Jeremy Visser

Title Environmental Consultant

Organisation BMT WBM Pty Ltd

ACN / ABN (if applicable) 54 010 830 421

Postal address PO Box 203 Spring Hill QLD 4004

Telephone (07) 3831 6744

Email Jeremy.Visser@bmtwbm.com.au

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached
to this form is complete, current and correct.

I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature



Date 26/10/15

REFERRAL CHECKLIST

NOTE: This checklist is to help ensure that all the relevant referral information has been provided. It is not a part of the referral form and does not need to be sent to the Department.

HAVE YOU:

- ☐ Completed all required sections of the referral form?
- ☐ Included accurate coordinates (to allow the location of the proposed action to be mapped)?
- ☐ Provided a map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the project area?
- ☐ Provided a map/plan showing the location of the action in relation to any matters of NES?
- ☐ Provided a digital file (preferably ArcGIS shapefile, refer to guidelines at [Attachment A](#)) delineating the boundaries of the referral area?
- ☐ Provided complete contact details and signed the form?
- ☐ Provided copies of any documents referenced in the referral form?
- ☐ Ensured that all attachments are less than three megabytes (3mb)?
- ☐ Sent the referral to the Department (electronic and hard copy preferred)?

Geographic Information System (GIS) data supply guidelines

If the area is less than 5 hectares, provide the location as a point layer. If the area greater than 5 hectares, please provide as a polygon layer. If the proposed action is linear (eg. a road or pipeline) please provide a polyline layer.

GIS data needs to be provided to the Department in the following manner:

- Point, Line or Polygon data types: ESRI file geodatabase feature class (preferred) or as an ESRI shapefile (.shp) zipped and attached with appropriate title
- Raster data types: Raw satellite imagery should be supplied in the vendor specific format.
- Projection as GDA94 coordinate system.

Processed products should be provided as follows:

- For data, uncompressed or lossless compressed formats is required - GeoTIFF or Imagine IMG is the first preference, then JPEG2000 lossless and other simple binary+header formats (ERS, ENVI or BIL).
- For natural/false/pseudo colour RGB imagery:
 - If the imagery is already mosaiced and is ready for display then lossy compression is suitable (JPEG2000 lossy/ECW/MrSID). Prefer 10% compression, up to 20% is acceptable.
 - If the imagery requires any sort of processing prior to display (i.e. mosaicing/colour balancing/etc) then an uncompressed or lossless compressed format is required.

Metadata or 'information about data' will be produced for all spatial data and will be compliant with ANZLIC Metadata Profile. (http://www.anzlic.org.au/policies_guidelines#guidelines).

The Department's preferred method is using ANZMet Lite, however the Department's Service Provider may use any compliant system to generate metadata.

All data will be provide under a Creative Commons license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>)