



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (SEA DUMPING) ACT 1981

SEA DUMPING PERMIT No. SD2025-4087

for

**The Department of Defence
(ABN: 68 706 814 312)**

I, **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Water, acting under Sections 19 and 21 of the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*, hereby grant a sea dumping permit to the Department of Defence, Russell Offices, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2600 (ABN:68 706 814 312), **s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)**

This permit commences on the date of its signature and is valid until 30 September 2026, subject to conditions specified in Appendices 1 - 3.

DATE 20th day of March 2026

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Delegate of the Minister

This permit comprises eight (8) pages, including Appendices 1 - 3.

CONDITIONS FOR THE **s. 33(a)(i),s. 33(a)(ii)**

DEFINITIONS

In this permit:

Act	means the <i>Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981</i> .
Application	means the application for a permit under the Act submitted by the permit holder and received by the department on 16 December 2025, with further information received on 13 February 2026 and 17 February 2026.
Department	means the Australian Government department responsible for administering the Act . For the purposes of this permit, any communication to the department should be sent by email addressed to: seadumping@dcceew.gov.au .

s. 33(a)(i),s. 33(a)(ii)

Dump / dumping	means the deliberate sinking of the vessel under this permit.
Dumping activities	means all activities associated with the dumping permitted under this permit, including: (i) the loading for the purpose of dumping (including towing to the disposal site) of the vessel (ii) the dumping of the vessel at the prescribed disposal site.
Environment signal	means any environmental communication sent to the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Safety Bureau as a result of the dumping activities .
Environmental incident	means any event that has the potential to, or does, impact on the environment other than the dumping activities for which this permit is granted.

s. 33(a)(i),s. 33(a)(ii)

Environmental risk	means any risk that has the potential to impact on the environment, other than the dumping activities for which this permit is granted.
GPS	means Global Positioning System.

Impact	(verb) means to cause any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or harmful change as a result of any activity associated with dumping activities . (noun) means any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or harmful change as a result of any activity associated with dumping activities .
International Reporting Requirements template	means the template at Appendix 3 to this permit titled <i>Sea Dumping Permit International Reporting Requirements</i> .
Marine species	means all marine cetaceans, pinnipeds, elasmobranchs and reptiles.
Permit holder	means the Department of Defence (Cth), Russell Offices, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2600 (ABN:68 706 814 312).

s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)

Preparation procedures	means the scrapping and cleaning procedures outlined in the s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii) to remove, limit or contain the likelihood of release of materials and/or contaminants to the marine environment during dumping activities .
Vessel	means the Ex-HMAS <i>Melville</i> , a former hydrographic survey vessel (International Maritime Organization Hull No. 9151785) owned by the permit holder .

Except so far as the contrary intention appears, terms used in the conditions of this permit have the same meaning as such terms in the **Act**.

CONDITIONS

1. The **permit holder** must ensure that all persons engaged in the **dumping activities** under this permit, comply with this permit and the requirements of the **Act**. The fulfilment of these conditions is, at all times while this permit is valid, the responsibility of the **permit holder**.

Material to be dumped

2. The **permit holder** must only **dump** the **vessel** at the **disposal site**, shown in *Figure 1* at Appendix 2.
3. Prior to **dumping activities**, the **permit holder** must complete the **preparation procedures** outlined in the **s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)**

Dumping Activities

4. The **permit holder** must establish by **GPS** that, prior to **dumping**, the **vessel** is in the **disposal site**.
5. **Dumping activities** must be undertaken in accordance with methods specified in the **application** and the environmental controls outlined in the **s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)**

Environmental risk and incidents

6. If, at any time during **dumping activities**, an **environmental incident** occurs or an **environmental risk** is identified, all reasonable measures must be taken immediately by the **permit holder** to minimise or mitigate the **environmental risk** and/or the **impact** of the **environmental incident**. The **permit holder** must provide a report on the **environmental incident** and/or **environmental risk** to the **department** within 72 hours of detecting any **environmental incident** and/or **environmental risk** and include in the report:
 - a. details of the **environmental incident** and/or **environmental risk**, including the date, time, and location (**GPS** co-ordinates)
 - b. the measures taken to minimise or mitigate the **environmental risk** and/or the **impact** of the **environmental incident** following detection
 - c. the success of those measures in addressing the **environmental incident** and/or **environmental risk**
 - d. any additional measures proposed to be taken.
7. The **permit holder** must document any detected injury to, or death of any **marine species** potentially associated with **dumping activities**. The date, time, location (**GPS** co-ordinates) and nature of each detected injury to, or death of, the **marine species** and the species involved, if known, must be recorded, and reported to the **department** within 72 hours of detecting the injury to, or death of, the **marine species**.

Record-keeping and reporting

8. The **permit holder** must, at least 7 calendar days prior to **dumping**, submit to the **department** the 'Completion Report' detailed in clause 1.5 of the Scope of Works for Scrapping at Enclosure 3 of the **s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)**
9. The **permit holder** must, within 60 days of the completion of **dumping**, provide a completed post-activity completion report to the **department** that includes:
 - a. the final location and depth of the **vessel**
 - b. an outline of mitigation measures implemented for human safety and the environment
 - c. any **environment signal** generated as a result of the **dumping activities** and subsequent response actions
 - d. the presence, spread and volume of floating debris collected post-exercise
 - e. any other relevant environmental observations.

10. Within 60 days of the **dumping**, the **permit holder** must provide confirmed coordinates of the final resting position of the **vessel** to the Australian Hydrographic Office, Locked Bag 8801, Wollongong, NSW 2500 or via email at: datacentre@hydro.gov.au.
11. To facilitate annual reporting to the International Maritime Organization, the **permit holder** must submit a sea dumping report to the **department** in accordance with the **International Reporting Requirements template**, or in a format otherwise agreed to in writing by the **department**, within 30 days of the **dumping** under this permit.

Auditing

12. If the **department** believes that it is necessary or desirable to undertake an audit of the permit conditions, the **permit holder** must comply with any such request and must provide any necessary assistance to the **department's** representatives in carrying out their duties.

SEA DUMPING PERMIT ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Please fill in this form and return it by **email** to the **department** within 30 days of the **dumping** under this permit. This information is required for Australia's reporting obligations to the International Maritime Organization under the London Protocol.

Email: seadumping@dcceew.gov.au and epbcmonitoring@dcceew.gov.au, quoting the permit reference number (**SD2025-4087**).

Permit details

Sea Dumping Permit number:	SD2025-4087
Permit holder:	Department of Defence (ABN:68 706 814 312)
Address:	Russell Offices, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2600
Permit start date:	
Permit end date:	30 September 2026
Description of material:	The <i>Ex-HMAS Melville</i> a former hydrographic survey vessel (International Maritime Organization Hull No. 9151785)
Total permit quantity:	1 vessel

Annual report

Submitted by (name):	
Phone:	
Email:	Date: (DD/MM/YYYY)

1) Specify the calendar year this report applies to: _____ (Reporting period)

s. 33(a)(i), s. 33(a)(ii)

3) Was field monitoring of the disposal site conducted during the reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please complete questions 4-7 below.

Monitoring of the disposal site

4) When was field monitoring conducted? (Please tick all boxes which apply.)

Before dumping ☐, During dumping ☐, After dumping ☐, Other ☐

If other, please explain: _____

5) What type(s) of field monitoring was undertaken? *(Please tick all boxes which apply.)*

Biological ☐, Geological ☐, Chemical ☐, Physical ☐, Other ☐

If other, please explain: _____

6) Were any adverse impact(s) found beyond those that were predicted? Yes ☐, No ☐

If yes, briefly describe the impacts (e.g., physical, chemical, or biological) and their spatial or temporal variation: _____

7) Provide a website/URL link to Field Monitoring Reports, or any additional information:

