



Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

**Application form for a permit under the
Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981
for an artificial reef**

Background

Purpose

As a party to the international [1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972](#) (the London Protocol), Australia has obligations to protect the marine environment from human activities. The [Environment Protection \(Sea Dumping\) Act 1981](#) (the Sea Dumping Act) was developed to fulfil Australia's obligations under the London Protocol. The Australian Government's objectives under the Sea Dumping Act are to protect and preserve the marine environment and take all practical steps to prevent pollution of the sea by the dumping of wastes and other matter.

Section 10E of the Sea Dumping Act allows for the placement of artificial reefs if undertaken in accordance with a Sea Dumping permit. Note that, under the Sea Dumping Act:

- an **artificial reef** means:
 - a structure or formation placed on the seabed:
 - (a) for the purpose of increasing or concentrating populations of marine plants and animals; or
 - (b) for the purpose of being used in human recreational activities;and includes anything prescribed by the regulations to be an artificial reef for the purposes of this definition, but does not include anything prescribed by the regulations not to be an artificial reef for the purposes of this definition.
- **artificial reef placement** means:
 - the placement of any controlled material into the sea for the purpose of creating an artificial reef, being a placement that is not contrary to the aims of the London Protocol.
- **controlled material** means:
 - (a) wastes or other matter (within the meaning of the London Protocol); and
 - (b) a vessel, aircraft or platform.

The details you provide in this application form will be assessed to determine whether the artificial reef is needed, and whether the environmental impacts of the reef are acceptable. Based on this assessment, the Minister for the Environment and Water (the minister) may grant or refuse a permit under section 19 of the Sea Dumping Act.

Requirements

Artificial reefs are structures or formations placed on the seabed for the purpose of increasing or concentrating populations of marine plants and animals, or for the purpose of being used in human recreational activities such as scuba diving and recreational fishing. The design and placement of an artificial reef must not harm or introduce hazards into the marine environment.

In the planning stages of an artificial reef project, applicants must carefully consider what the reef is designed to achieve and the likely impacts for the environment and the community. You will need to consult with Australian Government departments and agencies, and other government agencies relevant to your state or territory. You will also need to consult with local stakeholders and First Nations peoples.

Your application must answer all the questions in this form and demonstrate that you have completed the investigations necessary to support the granting of a permit. If further information is required, this can delay assessment.

Before completing your application, read this form carefully in conjunction with the *National artificial reef guidelines 2023* (the guidelines). The guidelines provide information about key considerations for each stage of the application form, and about the supporting documentation that is required.

Your application must include:

- details of the planning processes and consultation you have undertaken
- results of the baseline site investigation
- details of the artificial reef design and materials, and how these are expected to achieve the aims of the artificial reef
- details of the Placement Plan, including safety considerations
- the Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) for the artificial reef, including a monitoring program.

Applicants are advised to arrange a pre-application meeting to discuss artificial reef proposals with the Sea Dumping Section of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) early in the project, before submitting a permit application. This can help to identify all the requirements for the application, and any other approvals from the department the applicant may need. The meeting can also help to provide the applicant guidance and advice on the concept and development of the intended artificial reef project, to ensure that all aspects of the application are comprehensively addressed.

Lodgement of application

- This application form must not be modified in any way.
- All sections must be completed, otherwise your application will not be accepted.
- All attachments referenced in your application (and listed in section 11) must be dated/have version control and be provided with the application form.

For activities outside of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, you may lodge your application to the department via one of the options below.

Email

You can email your application and supporting documents to seadumping@dcceew.gov.au. If you are submitting your application by email, the email size limit is **10 MB**. If your application and supporting documents are larger than the limit, you may wish to split your attached documents across multiple emails.

SIGBOX

Due to Australian Government cyber security policies, most filesharing sites are blocked by the department's IT system.

SIGBOX is the department's preferred file sharing site for the secure upload, download and sharing of multiple and large files. When you are ready to submit your application, please contact us at seadumping@dcceew.gov.au to arrange the creation of your SIGBOX account. Please allow up to 5 business days for this process.

Mail

Hard copies of applications can be sent to:

Director
Sea Dumping Section
Environmental Permitting and Compliance Division
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090
Canberra ACT 2601

Payment

Under the Sea Dumping Act and the [Environment Protection \(Sea Dumping\) Regulations 1983](#), an application fee of **\$10,000** must be forwarded before a permit can be issued. The application fee must be received within 30 days of the application being forwarded, and assessment of the application will not start until fees are received. The minister may waive the requirement for payment of all or part of the fee if it is considered necessary or desirable.

When your application is received, you will receive a confirmation email containing a Sea Dumping Permit Application Number (an 'SD' number) and the amount of the fee payable.

To make a payment, the department's preferred methods of payment are by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or by credit card via the online services portal.

EFT payments

BSB: 092 009
Bank account number: 115 859
Account name: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Bank: Reserve Bank of Australia
Reference: Application description, applicant name and SD number

Credit card via online services

Visit onlineservices.environment.gov.au to create an account. Use the SD number sent to you as the 'reference number' and pay the fee amount listed in the confirmation email.

Invoice

If you require an invoice to be issued, please send the request in an email to seadumping@dcceew.gov.au. The request should include the applicant's name and contact details.

Cheques or money orders

The department can accept payment by cheque or money order. The cheque or money order should be made out to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and mailed to:

Director
Sea Dumping Section
Environmental Permitting and Compliance Division
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090
Canberra ACT 2601

Details of the relevant application should be enclosed with the cheque or money order, including an application description, applicant name and SD number.

Activities within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

If you are submitting a permit application for a sea dumping activity within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, please lodge your application with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Reef Authority) via email to assessments@gbbrmpa.gov.au.

The Reef Authority will send an invoice with payment instructions once the application is receipted.

What happens next?

Your application will be considered once this form (and any other relevant documents comprising your application) and payment have been received by the department. You may be asked to provide additional information to enable a decision to be made.

Further information

If you require further information or assistance with the application form or process, contact the Sea Dumping Section at seadumping@dcceew.gov.au.

Form to be completed

Please complete all sections of the form. Insert further rows as required. In some sections you may be required to attach additional material. Please list this in section 11.

If you have any queries about how to complete the application, contact the Sea Dumping Section at seadumping@dcceew.gov.au.

1 Permit summary

Please provide a summary of the permit application.

1.1 Name of applicant(s) (legal name of the business, organisation, or company):

1.2 Date(s) of proposed placement:

1.3 Date the permit is requested by:

1.4 Length of permit applied for in this application:

1.5 Type of artificial reef proposed:

Please tick one:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Purpose built | ☐ Vessels or aircraft |
| ☐ Repurposed infrastructure | ☐ Integrated (formed out of two or more of the types) |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

1.6 General location of the proposed artificial reef site (state/territory and proximity to nearest township/city):

1.7 Brief description of the proposed artificial reef design and material:

1.8 Anticipated cost of the proposed artificial reef:

1.9 List of other authorisations or permits that are being applied for (or have already been obtained) in relation to the proposed artificial reef (please attach a copy of permits already obtained to the application and list them in section 11):

2 Applicant

Please provide details of the applicant(s), owner of the material, contact people and permit application history (if applicable).

2.1 Identity of applicant(s) (intended permit holder(s))

Legal name of the business, organisation, or company:

Registered business name or trading name under which you operate (if different from the legal name):

Australian Business Number (ABN):

Australian Company Number (ACN) (if applicable):

Street address:

Postal address (if different from the street address):

Contact person for formal correspondence (e.g., permit decision outcomes):

Name:

Position title:

Phone/mobile:

Email:

Contact person for general correspondence (if different from above):

Name:

Position title:

Phone/mobile:

Email:

2.2 Permit application history (if applicable)

Please provide details of any other sea dumping permits the applicant has previously applied for (including granted, withdrawn or refused):

Sea Dumping reference number (if known/relevant)	Permit name	Date granted / withdrawn / refused	Type and quantity of modules

Insert further rows to the table as required.

2.3 Owner of the material which will form the artificial reef (if different from the applicant)

Legal name of the business, organisation, or company:

Registered business name or trading name under which you operate (if different from the legal name):

Australian Business Number (ABN):

Australian Company Number (ACN) (if applicable):

Street address:

Postal address (if different from the street address):

Contact person:

Name:

Position title:

Phone/mobile:

Email:

2.4 Required resources for the proposed artificial reef:

The department considers the applicant's ability to comply with permit conditions. Before granting a permit, the department assesses the applicant's financial, technical capacity and ability to meet the obligations under the permit and anticipated whole-of-life costs of the artificial reef.

Confirm that the required whole-of-life resources for the proposed artificial reef have been considered as part of the planning stage, including:

- the time, money and expertise associated with site selection and evaluation
- material preparation
- reef placement
- post-placement management and monitoring.

3 Planning an artificial reef project

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed artificial reef placement will provide beneficial outcomes. Examples of beneficial outcomes include ecological, community amenity and local economic benefits.

Please provide details at 3.1 to 3.3 of the planning processes and justification for the design, materials and site selected for the proposed artificial reef, including copies of any studies undertaken as attachments to the application.

3.1 Purpose of proposed reef:

Outline the overall goals and objectives to be achieved from the placement of the proposed artificial reef.

3.2 Reef planning and design process:

Describe the reef planning and design process.

Consultation is an important part of the planning stage and details are to be provided in section 10 of this form.

3.3 Briefly describe how the artificial reef will fulfil its purpose and deliver beneficial outcomes:

4 Site selection

Provide the details below regarding site selection at the relevant section 4.1 to 4.8.

Appropriate site selection is critical to the long-term viability of artificial reefs. In planning the project, the applicant must carefully consider a variety of sites that may be suitable for the proposed artificial reef.

Provide a detailed description of the proposed placement site, including the physical, biological, socio-economic, and cultural aspects. This will enable the department to assess whether the site is suitable for an artificial reef. It is important to consider each aspect at an appropriate scale, for example biological aspects need to be considered within and immediately surrounding the proposed placement site, whereas socio-economic aspects generally need to be considered at a regional scale.

For protected and sensitive areas, it is important to consider direct impacts (e.g., loss of habitat on the sea floor under the proposed artificial reef structure) and also facilitated or indirect impacts, which may include off-site impacts such as more boat traffic from local ramps and on the likely path to the artificial reef.

Applicants must investigate the proposed site(s) to characterise the environment and establish a baseline from which the impacts of the placement can be measured. The results of the baseline investigation must be included with the permit application. It is important that the site investigation provides a recent and robust baseline for the evaluation of future impacts and long-term monitoring and adaptive management. The period for which the baseline data is to be based upon depends on the variable. Ensure that the investigation is specific to the proposed site so that it will adequately inform the assessment of potential impacts.

4.1 Location of the proposed artificial reef site:

Attach a suitably scaled map of the proposed artificial reef site (e.g., the relevant sector from an AusMap), which includes:

- a clear grid reference (WGS84 decimal degrees [e.g., -DD.DDDD°, DDD.DDDD°] coordinate system must be used)
- nautical charts with Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) depth measurements
- bathymetric contours
- the boundaries of the site
- clearly labelled distances from features (e.g., land).

Please attach the files used to create the map (as a compressed ZIP folder containing the shapefile, or a KML file) to the application and list the attachments in section 11.

4.2 Alternative sites that were considered:

4.3 Summarise the reasons for selecting the proposed artificial reef site:

4.4 Site survey methods:

Outline the survey methods used and the information sourced during the environmental site investigation. Include photographs and/or video of the proposed artificial reef site, with established markers or other suitable means to enable photographs and/or video to be taken from the same place once the reef has been placed, and for future monitoring.

4.5 Provide information on the physical, chemical and any other relevant characteristics of the proposed artificial reef site, including:

- water depth at LAT
- bathymetry
- oceanographic and weather conditions including frequency and severity of storms together with appropriate peak storm conditions for the design life of the proposed reef
- sediment characteristics including sediment type, particle size and any contaminants
- physical and chemical characteristics of the water column, including turbidity, pH, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, chemical and biological oxygen demand, nutrients and any other contaminants
- other relevant information.

4.6 Protected and sensitive areas:

Sites must be chosen to avoid or minimise negative impacts of the proposed reef on the local marine environment, particularly on MNES. The department is unlikely to recommend a permit be granted for an artificial reef placed in protected or sensitive areas, such as:

- areas that have protected matters, which include Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), or other matters protected by the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (EPBC Act) (MNES is explained further in section 9) or any other environmental matters listed under relevant state or territory legislation
- marine protected areas, which are waters declared to be marine parks, aquatic reserves or any other type of zoning or planning by Commonwealth, state or territory governments
- biologically important areas, which are areas where species are known to conduct biologically important behaviours such as breeding, foraging or migration
- sensitive areas, such as seabed communities featuring algae (e.g., macroalgae, turf and benthic microalgae), seagrasses, mangroves, corals or mixtures of these groups.

Applicants must describe the nearby protected and sensitive habitats. This should include the distances to these habitats, marine plants and animals present on or near these habitats, and where possible the condition of these habitats. Depending on the scope, scale and risk of the project, the description could be based on desktop data, or may require field survey and/or sampling. Further details are provided in section 3.2 of the guidance.

4.7 Biological aspects:

Describe other biological characteristics within and immediately surrounding the proposed placement site, including (if applicable):

- listed threatened species and ecosystems
- migratory species and routes
- details of nearby natural reefs, including the distance from the proposed site to the reefs
- benthic communities (marine plants and animals) and habitats
- fish assemblages
- introduced and pest marine species
- any other relevant biological considerations.

4.8 Socio-economic and cultural aspects:

Describe the socio-economic and cultural features of the local area, by detailing in the text, tabulating and/or marking on a map(s) of the region showing the proposed artificial reef site in relation to the significant features, including (if applicable):

- local cities and towns
- ports and commercial shipping (including proximity to port limits and security zones, commercial vessel anchorage and shipping channels)
- access points and amenities (e.g., boat ramps and marinas)
- commercial and recreational fishing areas
- aquaculture facilities
- tourism areas and features
- areas used for recreational boating and other water sports
- navigation and safety features
- offshore oil and gas infrastructure
- renewable energy infrastructure
- subsea cables and pipelines
- defence or military exclusion zones
- historical, cultural, heritage-listed and scientific sites including underwater cultural heritage
- native title areas
- other relevant information.

5 Material selection and reef design

Provide the details below regarding material selection and reef design at the relevant section 5.1 to 5.14.

Appropriate material selection and design can greatly enhance artificial reef properties such as biological productivity, species abundance and diversity, and value and amenity to human users.

Please provide details of the structure and type of material for the artificial reef.

Material proposed for use in an artificial reef must be inert, stable, durable and structurally sound.

Applicants must provide details of the owner of the material proposed as the artificial reef.

The history and use of repurposed material must be detailed including the chemical components of the materials, such as paints or coatings.

5.1 Type of structure:

- Elaborate on the type of structure provided in section 1.5 (i.e., purpose built, vessel/aircraft, repurposed infrastructure, integrated).

5.2 List and describe the materials the artificial reef will be constructed from:

Item number	Material	Photo/s	Tonnes
1	e.g., steel, concrete		e.g., 4,000
2			
3			

Insert further rows to the table as required.

5.3 Reef design:

Describe the proposed reef design, dimensions, weight, spacing and orientation, including appropriate figures, images, schematic drawings, etc as attachments to the application (and listed in section 11).

5.4 Number of purpose-built reef modules or repurposed structures to be placed at sea:

5.5 Height of proposed artificial reef and depth of water over the reef (at LAT), once installed:

5.6 Provide an assessment of the stability and structural integrity of the proposed artificial reef and materials including assessment of the likelihood of material break-up during placement and in the longer term:

Include a report that models the shape of each part of the artificial reef and how this will respond to the known and predicted currents and surge associated with waves and wind, both in a typical diving day and in a 1-in-100-year storm.

5.7 Where the objective of the artificial reef is to provide for recreational diving, outline what steps will be taken to ensure diver safety in and around the proposed artificial reef:

Include details of material preparation or modifications undertaken to provide appropriate access and egress for divers including a diagram showing the spatial features and the layout of the reef in relation to a diver.

5.8 Where the objective of the artificial reef is to provide habitat, outline what steps will be taken to ensure an adequate variety of spaces and surfaces will be provided for the colonisation of a variety of local marine plants and animals:

5.9 For placement of vessels, repurposed infrastructure, or integrated artificial reefs, summarise the structure's history of ownership, use and maintenance record:

5.10 For placement of vessels as artificial reefs, include:

- name and/or registration number of the vessel to be placed
- port of registration
- age of the vessel
- history of use, including usual and last cargo
- nature and weight of ballast left on board
- details and schematics of historic hydrocarbon, mud or chemical storage areas and tanks.

5.11 Contaminants:

Provide details of any types, amounts and relative hazards of contaminants, including oils, paints, and chemicals such as persistent organic pollutants, which will remain on, or within, the item or structure.

5.12 Plastics:

Provide details of any plastics that are proposed for inclusion in the proposed artificial reef. The department is concerned about the potential impact of plastic fibres on the marine environment and the minister is unlikely to provide a permit for artificial reefs that include plastic fibres in their designs.

5.13 Preparation of the artificial reef:

Describe how the artificial reef has been prepared, including:

- compliance with relevant Australian Standards and guidelines
- fabrication methods of artificial reef modules (if applicable)
- the process of preparation, clean-up, and decontamination (if applicable) including marine pests and quarantine risks associated with any material (especially vessels and platforms) intended for placement as an artificial reef.

5.14 Location where the proposed artificial reef can be inspected:

6 Placement Plan

Applicants must develop a Placement Plan for submission with the permit application as a separate document.

The Placement Plan includes all details up to and including the placement of the artificial reef, including the post-placement inspection and report, with details beyond this point included in the LTMP.

Where details are unknown (e.g., vessel or placement date), applicants can provide these details by way of an updated Placement Plan at least 90 days prior to the placement. In this instance, applicants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible regarding suitable criteria as specific details in an application form such as vessel name/registration cannot be changed post-application (however the Placement Plan can be updated).

The Placement Plan must:

- detail and justify the intended method of preparation and placement
- include all preparation and placement activities including (where relevant) cutting of oil and gas infrastructure, crane and lift plan, potential vessels used, diver involvement, and human and navigational safety
- consider all proposed activities in an ecological context with a risk assessment conducted
- describe the placement to the best of the applicant's knowledge at the time of the application.

From a permit perspective, the duration that the reef will be in place commences when the placement is complete. For example, where placement is expected to occur within 2 years of being granted a permit (that is, a 2-year placement period) and the reef is to be in place for 30 years, the 30-year LTMP period would commence when the post-placement inspection and report is complete.

The above considerations must be addressed in the Placement Plan Template. The Placement Plan must be a detailed standalone document provided as an attachment to the application, with the key points from the plan provided in this section (6) of the application form.

7 Impact of the artificial reef

The applicant must conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential impacts of the artificial reef on the marine environment, both at the proposed site and surrounding areas, and socio-economically and culturally.

The impact assessment must consider how the reef will likely affect and/or change all aspects evaluated in the baseline environmental investigation, including directly under the footprint of the reef, the area near the reef and further afield.

The impact assessment must include details of all foreseeable impacts of the reef and its associated uses. The assessment must include the likelihood that these impacts will occur, an estimate of their consequence (severity), the size and timescale of the potential impact footprint, and proposed mitigation measures (noting monitoring is not considered a mitigation measure).

The impact of possible removal of the reef, either during the life of the permit (due to the reef not fulfilling its aims) or at the end of the permit life, must also be considered. Decommissioning of the artificial reef is the default option at the end of the life of the permit, however a reef can be proposed to be left in place for perpetuity where it does not pose any risk (e.g., to the environment, navigation or the safety of users) and is meeting its objectives. The decision to leave a reef in place is not made at the time of the assessment. The permit holder would need to survey and assess the reef and submit a report outlining whether they wish to leave the reef in place, partly remove the reef, or remove the whole reef. The report would need to be submitted during the second last year of the permit, that is, reporting during year 28 for a 30-year permit.

7.1 Physical and chemical impacts:

Describe any potential impacts to the physical and chemical aspects of the site including the list provided in the guidelines section 3.2.

7.2 Describe the impacts the proposed action may have on any Matter of National Environmental Significance:

(Note: Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are explained further in section 9.)

- Use the department's [Protected Matters Search Tool](#) to generate a Protected Matters Report (PMR) on the project area identified in this application.
- Provide an interpretation of the PMR including an assessment of the likely impact on every protected matter listed in the report (highlighting any likely significant impacts).
- Provide the co-ordinates used to define the project area(s) and indicate the width of any buffers used in the PMR.
- Include the PMR as an attachment to the application (listing it in section 11).

7.3 Biological impacts:

Describe any potential impacts to protected and sensitive areas and other biological aspects of the site, including the list provided in the guidelines section 3.2.

7.4 Socio-economic and cultural impacts:

Describe any potential impacts to the socio-economic and cultural aspects of the site including the list provided in the guidelines section 3.2.

7.5 Cumulative impacts:

The impact assessment must consider the intra-project cumulative impacts of the factors as outlined in the guidelines section 3.6, and how these could affect the marine environment in the vicinity of the proposed artificial reef (e.g., impacts in turtles associated with water quality plus predation plus entanglement).

Inter-project cumulative impacts on the region may need to be assessed, dependent on the nature of the project and the location of other artificial reefs. Applicants should discuss cumulative impacts with the department at the pre-application meeting where further guidance is required.

8 Long-Term Management Plan

Applicants must develop a LTMP for submission with the permit application as a separate document. LTMP commences when the activities in the Placement Plan finish, that is, once the reef is verified to be placed as per the reef design.

The LTMP must outline the procedures that will be undertaken to monitor compliance with the permit (should it be granted), monitor the performance of the reef (to determine whether project goals and objectives are being met and risks are being appropriately managed), and to outline the end-of-life decommissioning plan and allow for rehabilitation in the event of damage to the marine environment. The LTMP will be approved by the minister and forms part of the permit conditions.

The LTMP must include:

- the goals and objectives of the artificial reef
- any key issues or reporting areas identified during the investigation and planning phase
- trigger values and mitigation measures for the issues identified
- timelines (frequency and duration of monitoring)
- monitoring methods
- roles and responsibilities (i.e., who will undertake the monitoring)
- cost estimate and evidence of ongoing funding to complete the project
- summary of the monitoring that will be undertaken to assess:
 - stability and structural integrity to ensure that the artificial reef does not create a hazard to the marine environment or other users over time
 - physical and chemical environment
 - marine plants and animals at the artificial reef (e.g., protected species, target species for restoration or recreation, pest species) and/or in surrounding areas, depending on the scope, scale and risk of the project
- an emergency and incident response plan if the artificial reef becomes unsafe
- a decommissioning decision-making framework and plan (both in case trigger values are exceeded and for the end of permit life)
- a summary of the reporting commitments associated with the LTMP
- the audit and review process that will be used to ensure ongoing compliance and adjust monitoring as required
- availability of the LTMP (that is, where it will be accessible, such as online access)
- a reference list.

Long-term monitoring and adaptive management must be presented in a summary table to clarify how it will be undertaken. The department recommends a table with the column headings: aspect (reporting area), impacting pathway, objective, monitoring method, monitoring frequency, data type, responsibility, threshold to trigger mitigation and mitigative action(s).

The above consideration must be addressed in the LTMP as outlined in the Long-term Management Plan Template. The LTMP must be a detailed standalone document provided as an attachment to the application, with the key points from the plan provided in this section (8) of the application form.

9 EPBC Act self-assessment

Under the EPBC Act, the Australian Government must assess and approve any action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on MNES before it can go ahead.

An activity or action will require separate assessment and approval under parts 7-9 of the EPBC Act if it is likely to have a significant impact on one or more of the following MNES:

- World Heritage properties
- Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar)
- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- listed migratory species
- the environment of Commonwealth marine areas
- National Heritage places
- Commonwealth land or actions involving a Commonwealth agency
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- the environment, from nuclear actions
- water resources, from coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

If the placement of the artificial reef may significantly impact on an MNES, the applicant will need to refer the proposal for separate assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. Please use the [Protected Matters Search Tool](#) to help identify potential MNES impacted by the proposed action.

Further information about referrals is available at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice-for-complying-with-the-epbc-act/referral-applications-and-proposals. For a detailed discussion of assessment under the EPBC Act and how it interacts with the Sea Dumping Act, see section 2.1.3 of the [National assessment guidelines for dredging \(NAGD\) 2009](#). If you are unsure whether you need to refer your proposal, please contact our Referrals Gateway team at EPBC.Referrals@environment.gov.au.

It is important that the department is aware of any referrals the applicant has made under the EPBC Act because a decision on the application may not be possible until the EPBC referral has been assessed and decided. In some circumstances, section 160 of the EPBC Act requires the minister or their delegate to seek advice under the EPBC Act before making a decision.

Please answer the following questions:

9.1 Has the proposed action been referred to the minister under the EPBC Act?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9.2 If 'Yes' to 9.1, has a decision on this proposed action been reached?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- If 'Yes', please provide details of the EPBC Act decision, including the project reference number and date of decision.

10 Consultation

As part of the process of planning for any artificial reef application, applicants should consult with relevant advisory bodies and government authorities as well as local stakeholders and First Nations peoples. These consultations should provide information to the relevant groups about the proposed artificial reef as well as inform the artificial reef planning process, as well as any LTMPs (see section 8 [Long-Term Management Plan](#)).

Please note: any activities that are within an Australian Marine Park or that could have indirect impacts on an Australian Marine Park will require consultation with the Director of National Parks. Please visit the Marine Parks website for detailed maps and further information. The Marine Parks Authorisations team can be contacted at MarineParksAuthorisations@dcceew.gov.au and will be able to advise whether consultation is required. Early engagement is encouraged to ensure adequate time for consultation and authorisation if required.

Please summarise the consultations and attach the records of consultation to this application.

10.1 List and describe consultations that have been undertaken with advisory bodies and government authorities:

These may include the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Australian Hydrographic Office, the Director of National Parks, other relevant Australian Government departments and agencies, state or territory government entities, and local government.

Consultation reference	Date consulted	Person or organisation consulted	Summary and outcome of consultation

Insert further rows to the table as required.

10.2 List and describe consultations that have been undertaken with stakeholders and First Nations peoples or local interest groups:

These may include nearby commercial interest groups, fishing groups and community organisations.

Consultation reference	Date consulted	Person or organisation consulted	Summary and outcome of consultation

Insert further rows to the table as required.

11 Attachments

Please list all the attachments to your application. These may include:

- artificial reef planning and feasibility studies
- environmental impact assessments
- stakeholder consultation reports/evidence
- construction plans
- schematic drawing of appropriate scale
- reef module stability reports
- EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool Report
- Placement Plan
- LTMP
- copies of other permits or authorisations obtained.

Attachment number	Name of document	Corresponding section(s) of the application it is relevant to	Number of pages	Document type
1				e.g., PDF, JPEG
2				
3				

Insert further rows to the table as required.

12 Information notice

Under the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act), 'personal information' means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable. 'Sensitive information' is a subset of personal information and includes any information or opinion about an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinion or association, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, sexual preferences or practices, trade or professional associations and memberships, union membership, criminal record, health or genetic information and biometric information or templates. This application form requests you provide personal information and may also request sensitive personal health information.

By completing and submitting this application, you consent to the department collecting, using, and disclosing all information, including all personal information and sensitive information, in this permit application form and any attachments to the form (your application) for the purposes set out below and in accordance with the terms of this notice or as agreed in writing with the department. To the extent that this notice relates to personal information, it constitutes a notice for the purposes of the *Australian Privacy Principle 5*.

The department collects and will use and disclose the information, including personal information, in your application for the purpose of administering the Sea Dumping Act its associated regulations and other related purposes.

If you fail to provide some or all of the information, including personal information, requested in the permit application form, the department will be unable to process your application. The department may use and disclose the information in your application, including personal information, to the minister or delegate and other Australian government agencies, persons, or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular, the Privacy Act.

Your application, including personal information, may be published in a notice in the *Gazette* as required by section 25 of the Sea Dumping Act, and on the department's website. As such, your application may be viewed by anyone, including those overseas. The department has not taken steps to ensure that those who view the published material do not breach the Australian Privacy Principles. This means that:

- overseas viewers may not be accountable under the Privacy Act
- you may not be able to seek redress under the Privacy Act
- you may not be able to seek redress in the overseas jurisdiction
- overseas viewers may not be subject to any privacy obligations or to any principles similar to the Australian Privacy Principles.

Your application may also be disclosed to the following organisations, entities, or individuals:

- Individuals who make a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- The Australian National Audit office and other privately appointed auditors
- Other law enforcement bodies
- The department's legal advisors.

By completing and submitting this form, you:

- consent to the department's use and publication of all information in your application for the purposes set out above

- grant the department a perpetual, irrevocable, world-wide, royalty free, non-exclusive licence (including a right of sublicense) to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, publish, and communicate your application for the purposes set out above
- warrant that the department's use of your application in accordance with the above licence will not infringe the intellectual property rights of any other person and that you have the necessary rights to provide the above licence
- indemnify the department against any loss or liability from any claim arising out of or in connection with the department's use and publication of your application in accordance with the above licence

subject to any agreement with the department in writing as to its use and publication of your application.

Please contact the department if you wish to discuss the terms of the department's use and publication of your application. In particular, if you wish to request that the department does not publish specified information in your application. If you seek that information in your application should be kept confidential, you must clearly identify this information and the reason for seeking its confidentiality at the time of making your application. You must demonstrate that:

- the information is not in the public domain, readily discoverable or required to be disclosed under any other state or Commonwealth law, and is secret or known to a limited group
- the reasons for keeping the information confidential. For example, for commercial-in-confidence information, that the release of the information would cause competitive detriment to the owner of the information.

Please list any information in your application that you seek to be kept confidential and the reasons for seeking its confidentiality in the table below.

Item number	Location of information in the application	Description of confidential information	Reason for seeking confidentiality

Insert further rows to the table as required.

The department will not use or disclose your personal information for any other purpose without your consent, unless it is required or authorised by law, or relates to our enforcement activities. The department will use and store personal information in your application in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See the department's Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/commitment/privacy>. Alternatively, email the department at privacy@dcceew.gov.au.

I have read, understood, and agree with the terms of this information notice, including to the extent that it relates to the department's collection, use and disclosure of personal information under the Privacy Act: ☐

13 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.

Signed:

Name:

Date: