



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Placement Plan Template for artificial reef permit

Background

This template is intended to be used in conjunction with the National artificial reef guidelines and artificial reef placement permit application form on the department's [Sea Dumping webpage](#). The National artificial reef guidelines set out a framework for permit applications under the [Environment Protection \(Sea Dumping\) Act 1981](#) (the Sea Dumping Act). The guidelines will help an applicant to fill out the application form and provide the department with adequate information on their application. This template cannot be used without first reading the National artificial reef guidelines and artificial reef placement permit application form.

After a sea dumping permit has been issued, applicants are responsible for safe placement and long-term monitoring and management of the artificial reef. 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 Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP). From a permit perspective, the duration that the reef will be in place commences when the placement is complete. A template is also available for an artificial reef LTMP on the department's [Sea Dumping webpage](#).

About this template

This template should be used by applicants for an artificial reef Placement Plan. The Placement Plan is to be attached to the application form as a separate standalone document for approval. The application form is to provide an overview of the more detailed information provided in the Placement Plan.

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.

The Placement Plan must include all preparation and placement activities. Applicants will need to determine the most appropriate method of material preparation and placement for their proposed artificial reef. Immediately after reef placement, the site and reef material must be inspected by suitably qualified members of the placement team and details of the inspection must be sent to the department in a post-placement inspection report.

The applicant is required to populate the information under each of the headings and delete all instructional text (including all text including and above 'Template for use by applicants starts on next page') before submission. The Placement Plan should also include a cover page, document version control details including contact details for applicant, table of contents including table of tables, table of figures, table of abbreviations and a reference list where specified.

Template for use by applicants starts on next page

Applicant to delete this text and insert cover page

Applicant to delete this text and insert document version control details including contact details for applicant

Applicant to delete this text and insert table of contents including table of tables and table of figures

Applicant to delete this text and insert table of abbreviations

The following questions must be detailed in the Placement Plan. This template outlines the minimum requirements only and the applicant is to include additional relevant information as required depending on the nature of the artificial reef application. The National artificial reef guidelines provide further information regarding what should be considered for inclusion.

1. Introduction

The Placement Plan should provide a brief introduction to the artificial reef project that is the subject of the permit application.

The introduction should provide a brief overview of:

- the purpose of the Placement Plan
- the key elements of the reef including reef design and any repurposing of materials
- the location of the reef including proximity to protected areas
- the main potential impacts relevant to placement activities and strategies planned to address the impacts as a table.

2. Method and timing of placement

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 placement.

Provide full details on the proposed method of placement, including:

- the entire procedure for all preparation and placement activities (e.g., cutting of oil and gas infrastructure, craning and lift plan, potential vessels used, diver involvement, and human and navigational safety)
- if the proposal is to place material in stages, give the quantity per placement and proposed frequency of placements
- anchoring procedures for the placement vessel(s) (including current maps showing anchor points)
- exclusion zones and notifications
- disconnection from the vessel (if used for transport)
- any use of explosives and related safety procedures
- the person in charge of the placement operation notifications.

Date(s) and time(s) of proposed placement(s):

- include proposed placement date and latest possible placement date
- a placement window can be provided where the exact date is not known.

Provide full details on the proposed method of transport to the site, including:

- the place where the material will be loaded for transport (please provide a map as well as a description)

- full details on how the material will be loaded and secured
- the route from loading to the placement site.

Details of any vessel(s) to be used for transport and placement, including:

- name of vessel(s)
- owner of the vessel(s)
 - name
 - street address
 - postal address (if different to the street address)
 - phone/mobile
 - email.

3. Re-purposed vessels and aircraft

In addition, where relevant, for placement of vessels and aircraft as artificial reefs, provide full details of the:

- intended method to be used to sink the vessel or aircraft
- installation of flooding mechanisms
- explosives plan and method to verify that all explosives are detonated including details of authorised shot firer (if applicable).

4. Re-purposed infrastructure

In addition, where relevant, for placement of repurposed infrastructure as artificial reefs, provide full details of:

- all preparation activities including cutting in situ and cleaning
- what is remaining at the infrastructure site, both above and below the mudline.

Generally, the use of repurposed oil and gas or other infrastructure for placement as artificial reefs is only allowed if it has been removed from the ocean and thoroughly cleaned of any potential contaminants before placement. Proposed reefing of repurposed infrastructure will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, including cleaning and other requirements as proposed by the applicant.

Applicants are encouraged to involve the owner of the infrastructure in the application process, as they are most familiar with the usage and history of the infrastructure.

5. Quality and safety assurance

Provide full details of the quality assurance methods to be used for the site, including:

- assurance that the artificial reef will sink and that significant fragments will not be dispersed (if applicable)
- how the artificial reef's final position on the seabed will be confirmed
- how movement of the artificial reef will be prevented
- contingency plans for unplanned events such as:
 - foundering or flooding of the material, either during transfer to the placement site or once moored at the site before placement
 - inability to reach the specified site
 - incomplete sinking or break-up of the reef material during sinking
 - undetonated explosives or pyrotechnics (where relevant)
 - reef components are not in the correct location or orientation
 - pollution (for example, release of oil or floating debris), particularly during transfer to the site and immediately after placement
 - other potential environmental impacts such as physical damage to coral or seagrass or interactions with marine animals.

Provide full details of the safety assurance methods to be used for the placement process, including:

- engineering and safety standards
- the person responsible for implementing such standards (where not known at the time of application, provide a list of minimum qualifications and experience that will be held by the personnel involved)
- personnel involved in transferring and placing material, setting explosives, and establishing and maintaining exclusion zones must be appropriately qualified and experienced
- steps to be taken to ensure diver safety (if applicable)
- contingency measures such as if the artificial reef becomes unsafe for diving and must be closed permanently or until made safe.

Applicant to insert reference list