



Australian Government

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

**Application form for a permit under the
Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981
to dispose of vessels at sea**

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](#) (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 10A of the Sea Dumping Act allows for the dumping of 'controlled material' if undertaken in accordance with a Sea Dumping permit. 'Controlled material' means:

- (a) wastes or other matter (within the meaning of the Protocol); and
- (b) a vessel, aircraft or platform.

In accordance with the Sea Dumping Act, and Article 1 and Annex 1 of the London Protocol, a permit is required for the dumping of vessels and platforms or other man-made structures at sea. This form is specifically for the dumping of vessels at sea (the proposed action).

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

Requirements

When disposing of vessels at sea, a suitable site must be chosen. This means that the disposal will have a minimal impact on the marine environment, including the seabed, and will not have an impact on navigation, fishing and trawling practices, or any marine plants and animals.

Vessels intended for dumping must be cleaned to remove contaminants and other harmful substances (such as fuel and lubricating oil). Any loose objects or non-permanent fixtures must also be removed.

The disposal of vessels at sea is discouraged, and applicants are encouraged to use alternative disposal options such as land disposal and ship scrapping or recycling, where practical.

Your application must clearly:

- demonstrate that you have considered alternatives to sea disposal
- describe the type of the vessel to be disposed of at sea
- provide details of the disposal locality
- provide details of any potential environmental impacts at the disposal site
- describe how the vessel will be transported from the origin to the disposal site
- describe how the vessel will be disposed of at sea.

Please read this form for requirements before completing your application.

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 of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (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 commonwealth 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
Environment Approvals 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 **\$12,700** 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

Environment Approvals 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@gbmpa.gov.au.

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

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 summary of the permit application.

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

1.2 Dates of proposed disposal:

1.3 Date the permit is requested by:

1.4 Length of permit applied for in this application:

1.5 Briefly describe the vessel to be disposed of (including the size and main materials it is made of):

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

2 Applicant

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

2.1 Identity of applicant (intended permit holder)

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:

Sea Dumping reference number (if known)	Permit name	Date granted / withdrawn / refused	Length of permit	Type and size of vessel disposed

Insert further rows to the table as required.

2.3 Owner of the vessel to be disposed at sea (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:

3 Vessel

Please provide details of the vessel to be dumped.

3.1 Type of vessel:

3.2 Name and/or number:

3.3 Country of registration:

3.4 Describe the vessel, including:

- dimensions (provide a schematic diagram if possible), age, material composition, state, stability, estimated weight in air
- any types, amounts and relative hazards of contaminants, including oils and paints that will stay on or within the vessel.

3.5 Describe the history of the vessel's use and maintenance record:

3.6 Location where the vessel can be inspected:

4 Waste management

Applications to dispose of vessels at sea must demonstrate that other options for waste management and disposal have been considered. This includes considering the potential impacts of the material on the environment and the potential hazard of contaminants, as well as the technical and economic feasibility for sea disposal.

Please provide details of your considerations, and why you have decided that sea disposal is the best option.

4.1 Describe how the following disposal options have been considered (in order of increasing environmental impact):

- re-use of all or some of the components of the vessel
- offsite recycling
- disposal on land of all or some of the components of the vessel
- disposal into sea of all or some of the components of the vessel.

4.2 Present a comparative risk assessment of the disposal options listed in 4.1. The assessment should describe how the following have been considered for each disposal option:

- potential impacts of the vessel on the environment
- potential hazard of contaminants
- cleaning of the vessel and components
- destruction, treatment, or removal of hazardous constituents
- engineering aspects
- comparative cost estimates
- worker safety
- the general obligation to apply a precautionary approach to sea dumping
- the objective of protecting the marine environment from all sources of pollution.

5 Pollution prevention and best environmental practice

It is important that the marine environment is protected from potential pollution. Sea dumping applications must therefore include a Pollution Prevention and Best Environmental Practice Plan (PPBEPP). The purpose is to ensure that waste contaminants that may contribute to pollution of the marine environment and to fishing and navigational hazards are removed before disposal.

Your plan should cover at least the following elements.

5.1 Describe any potential wastes or contaminants (e.g., persistent organic pollutants, hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs], polybrominated diphenyl ethers [PBDEs], lubricants, stocks of industrial or commercial chemicals) on board the vessel, including:

- types and sources
- amounts (volume and concentration)
- properties – physical, chemical, biochemical and biological
- toxicity, including, where appropriate, additive, synergistic or antagonistic
- persistence – physical, chemical, and biological
- accumulation and biotransformation in biological materials or sediments.

5.2 Describe how the release of pollutants will be prevented, such as:

- removal of equipment containing liquid PCBs and PBDEs
- removal of contaminants, potentially hazardous constituents and liquid materials remaining in tanks or piping and on surfaces (including fuels, oils and anti-foulant paints)
- removal of drummed, tanked, or canned liquids or gaseous materials from the structure or item for disposal on land
- removal of floating materials (including foams and plastics) that could adversely impact safety, human health, or the ecological or aesthetic value of the marine environment
- cleaning of tanks, pipes, and structures in an environmentally sound manner (including wastewater containment, treatment, and disposal)
- chemical testing of certain areas of a vessel (such as tanks) after cleaning, to confirm that the vessel has been cleaned to the maximum practical extent.

5.3 Describe how the Pollution Prevention and Best Environmental Practice Plan consider the following:

- environmental impacts
- technical feasibility
- economic feasibility
- worker safety.

6 Disposal site

Please provide details of the characteristics of the proposed disposal site. This will enable the department to assess whether the site is suitable to receive the proposed material.

6.1 Location of the disposal site:

Attach a suitably scaled map of the proposed disposal 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)
- bathymetric contours
- the boundaries of the site and its distance from 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.

6.2 Disposal site use history:

Has approval previously been granted for sea disposal at this site?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- If 'Yes,' provide the sea dumping permit number(s)
- If 'No,' explain how this site differs from nearby disposal site(s) (if applicable) and clearly indicate the relationship between the site(s) on a map including the features described in 6.1.

6.3 Summarise the reasons for selecting the disposal site:

6.4 Is the disposal site located within the boundaries of, or in the vicinity of, a Marine Protected Area?

'Marine Protected Area' refers to waters declared to be marine parks, aquatic reserves or any other type of zoning or planning by the Australian, state or territory governments.

☐ Yes ☐ No

- If 'Yes,' provide details.

6.5 Describe any sensitive areas in the vicinity of the proposed disposal site:

Sensitive areas include seabed communities within which algae (e.g., macroalgae, turf and benthic microalgae), seagrasses, mangroves, corals, or mixtures of these groups are prominent components.

6.6 Provide information on the physical and any other relevant characteristics of the disposal site, including:

- water depth at Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)
- seabed topography
- sediment characteristics, including sampling
- chemical characteristics of the water column
- geochemical and geophysical characteristics
- biological characteristics of the site
- other relevant information.

7 Method of disposal

The process of disposal must be conducted safely to minimise any potential environmental impacts. Please describe the method of disposal and safety preparations.

7.1 Describe the proposed method of transport to the disposal site, including:

- the route from loading to the disposal site
- wet tow or dry tow.

7.2 Describe the proposed method of disposal, including:

- overall procedure
- installation of flooding mechanisms
- any use of explosives and safety procedures around their use
- disconnection from transport
- the person in charge of the disposal operation.

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

- assurance that the vessel will sink and that significant fragments will not be dispersed
- how the vessel's final position on the seabed will be confirmed
- how movement of the vessel will be prevented.

7.4 Provide details of the safety assurance methods to be used for the disposal process, including:

- engineering and safety standards
- the person responsible for implementing such standards
- contingency measures.

8 Impact of disposal

Sea dumping applications must include an assessment of the potential impacts of the disposal of the vessel. The assessment should demonstrate that, with the implementation of best environmental practices, any impacts will be minimal.

Please detail the expected impacts of disposal and attach the results of any studies or supporting material to this application.

8.1 Describe the projected physical, chemical, and biological impacts on the disposal site and surrounding areas, including:

- the area of seabed that will be substantially impacted (the zones of impact)
- the long-term fate of the vessel after disposal
- the predicted impact of the disposal, based on what is being disposed, when disposal is taking place and the disposal method
- physical and ecological effects of the disposal activity, including the impacts on existing and adjacent habitats and species
- the long-term fate of the structure after abandonment
- other possible effects on the ecosystem and resource users of the area, including the safety for boating and fishing, and any other surface and subsurface navigation.

8.2 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 (in decimal degrees) 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).

8.3 Describe any intended studies or monitoring of the potential impacts on the environment from the proposed action:

- the predicted results of the studies
- the measurements that will be required to test these predictions (type, location, frequency, performance requirements)
- how data will be managed and interpreted
- what reports will be provided to the department and how frequently they will be provided.

9 EPBC Act self-assessment

Under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (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 proposed action 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 <https://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 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 disposal, applicants should consult with relevant advisory bodies and government authorities as well as local stakeholders who may be affected. These consultations should provide information to the relevant groups about the proposed disposal as well as inform the disposal planning process. Please summarise the consultations and attach the records of consultation to this application.

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.

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 stakeholder organisations or local interest groups:

These may include nearby commercial interest groups, fishing groups, and local First Nations people 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. Note that pre-2010 file formats cannot be accessed by the department and therefore cannot be accepted as part of your application.

Attachment number	Name of document	Corresponding section(s) of the application it is relevant to	Number of pages in the attachment	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: