Appendix 7: Impact Assessment Criteria

EPA Principles

The EP Act identifies a series of principles for environmental management (section 4a, EP Act 1986, as amended). IOH has considered these principles in relation to the development and implementation of the Proposal. **Error! Reference source not found.** table below outlines how the Proposal relates to the principles.

Principle	How being addressed by the Proposal
1. Precautionary principle Where there are threats of serious irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, decisions should be guided by: a. careful evaluation to avoid, where practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and b. an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.	The Cape Preston area is well understood in terms of environmental values. The area is already being developed for large scale mining and iron ore export operations. The Proposal has utilised existing environmental data during the project design and has supplemented it with a series of studies that are identified in Section 3. The early design phase has been completed and identified that significant BPPH can be avoided and that no dredging is required. Other options for development locations considered would have required substantial dredging, land reclamation and/or long trestle structures.
2. Intergenerational equity The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.	The Proposal can be designed and implemented without significant impacts on the health, diversity and productivity of the environment. The Proposal will enable economic and social benefits to flow from iron ore projects that would otherwise have no economic export solution.
3. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integration should be a fundamental consideration	The extensive existing baseline data sets from the Cape Preston area indicate that there are not likely to be significant biodiversity or ecological integrity impacts at local or regional scales. Additional survey work has been used to confirm the range and status of environmental values within the Proposal Area.
4. Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms a. Environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services b. The polluter pays principle – those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement. c. The users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any waste d. Environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, which benefit and/or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems	The scale and value of the smaller iron ore deposits that would be exported through the Proposal demands a cost effective export solution. This is being achieved by minimising the length of the trestle jetty and avoiding the need for dredging - which directly reduces the environmental impact of the Proposal.
5. Waste minimisation All reasonable and practicable measures should be taken to minimise the generation of waste and its discharge into the environment	No dredging waste will be created by the Proposal. Waste will be minimised by adopting the hierarchy of controls; Avoid, Minimise, Re-use, Recycle and Safe Disposal.

EPA Objectives

The EPA has established objectives for a range of environmental factors. These are identified and addressed in the impact assessments presented in the Key Factors and Other Factors sections.

EPA Administrative Procedures

Environmental Impact Assessment Administrative Procedures as required under the EP Act were identified most recently in the Government Gazette No. 223 (7 December 2012). The procedures identify the criteria for API level of assessment for Category A projects (the category for this Proposal), the assessment procedure and the information requirements.

As a guide, the information requirements identified in the procedures are identified in the table below, with reference to the location of the information in the document.

EPA principles for environmental management

Information Required	Location in the Document
(a) Description of the proposal and provision of spatial datasets, information products and databases required	Proposal description – see Section 2. Spatial datasets – see Appendix 5.
(b) Details of the consultation process and outcomes	Consultation process and outcomes – see section 5
(c) Relevant information on the receiving environment and its conservation values in a regional and local setting	Section 4.1 – Background Information
(d) Identification of the limited number of preliminary key environmental factors and demonstration that the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the environment for each factor can be readily managed to meet the EPA's environmental objectives. The findings of any surveys and investigations undertaken to support this assessment should be included, with the technical reports provided as appendices	Sections 4.2 and 4.3 – Marine Fauna and Marine Water Quality and relevant Appendices.
(e) Assessment of the degree of certainty with which the environmental impacts can be predicted	Sections 4.2.3, 4.3.3 and 5.1.1
(f) Identification of other potential impacts or activities of the proposal that can be regulated by other government agencies, under other statutes and an acknowledgement of the need to comply with these	Section 0
(g) Justified statement of how the object of the Act (see clause 3, paragraph 1) and Principles of EIA for the Proponent (see clause 5) have been addressed and how the proposal meets all of the criteria for API category A.	Object of the Act is to protect the environment. This document outlines the potential environmental impacts and measures to protect the environment and the resulting predicted environmental outcome. The Principles of EIA for the Proponent are provided in Criteria for API Category A – See table below

Criteria for Category A API Level of Assessment

Criteria	Comment
(a) The Proposal raises a limited number of key environmental factors that can readily be managed and for which there is an established condition-setting framework	The EPA has considered the relevant environmental factors through the referral and setting the level of assessment. The referral document (IOH, 2012) identifies the relevant factors and management. The EPA Environmental Scoping Guideline establishes Marine Fauna and Marine Water Quality as the two key factors. There is an established condition setting framework for proposals in both marine and terrestrial environments in the Pilbara.
(b) The Proposal is consistent with established policies, guidelines and standards	The location and purpose of the land upon which the Proposal is based is consistent with established Government policy and land use. Assessment against EPA objectives is provided in the document. The Proposal is consistent with EPA objectives. Information is provided where relevant in relation to guidelines and standards.
(c) The Proponent can demonstrate that it has conducted appropriate and effective stakeholder consultation , in particular with DMAs	IOH has completed extensive stakeholder consultation including reaching agreement with Traditional Owners.
(d) There is limited or local concern only about the likely effect of the Proposal, implemented, on the environment.	Proposals at Cape Preston have resulted in low levels of local concern. The Proposal is of a significantly smaller scale.

Principles of EIA for the Proponent (From the Western Australian Government Gazette, No 223. Perth Friday 7 December 2012)

	Principle for Proponent	Comment
5.1	Consult with all stakeholders, including the EPA, DMAs, other relevant government agencies and local community as early as possible in the planning of the proposal, during the environmental review and assessment of their proposal, and where necessary during the life of the project;	IOH has completed a comprehensive consultation programme across a broad range of stakeholders. The outcomes are summarised in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**.
5.2	Ensure the public is provided with sufficient information relevant to the EIA of a proposal to be able to make informed comment, prior to the EPA completing the assessment report;	IOH has completed a comprehensive consultation programme across a broad range of stakeholders. The outcomes are summarised in Section 6. This has included specific consultation with: • OEPA • DPA • DoT • Native Title holders • Local Government • DEC
5.3	Use best practicable measures and genuine evaluation of options or alternatives in locating, planning and designing their proposal to mitigate detrimental environmental impacts and to facilitate positive environmental outcomes and a continuous improvement approach to environmental management;	Options have been evaluated and CPE selected as having least environmental impact. Impacts have been identified and control measure proposed. Likely environmental outcomes are identified. IOH policy (Appendix 8) supports continuous improvement.
5.4	Identify the environmental factors likely to be impacted and the aspects likely to cause impacts in the early stages of planning for their proposal. The onus is on the proponent through the EIA process to demonstrate that the unavoidable impacts will meet the EPA objectives for environmental factors and therefore their proposal is environmentally acceptable	See impact assessment in this document.
5.5	Consider the following, during project planning and discussions with the EPA, regarding the form, content and timing of their environmental review – a. the activities, investigations (and consequent authorisations) required to undertake the environmental review; b. the efficacy of the investigations to produce sound scientific baseline data about the receiving environment; c. the documentation and reporting of investigations; d. the likely timeframes in which to complete the environmental	IOH has completed the investigations required to undertake the environmental review and provides documentation of them in the Appendices to the API document.

	Principle for Proponent	Comment
	review; and e. use best endeavours to meet assessment timelines	
5.6	Identify in their environmental review, subject to the EPA's guidance – a. best practicable measures to avoid, where possible, and otherwise minimise, rectify, reduce, monitor and manage impacts on the environment; and b. responsible corporate environmental policies, strategies and management practices, which demonstrate how the proposal can be implemented to meet the EPA's environmental objectives for environmental factors.	IOH has identified a series of control measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate impacts to the environment. These are presented in the review document. IOH environmental policy is provided in Appendix 8 (Section0).

Environmental Scoping Guideline

The EPA issued an Environmental Scoping Guideline for the Proposal on 20 December 2012. This environmental review document has been prepared in consideration of the EPA prepared Environmental Scoping Guideline.