

Public record pursuant to s. 39 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal title: Onslow Recreational Jetty

Proposal description: Construction and operation of a recreational jetty. The proposal will provide a pedestrian jetty alongside the ruins of the historic Onslow Jetty for tourism and fishing. The jetty will not be designed to accommodate vehicles or vessels and will be for pedestrians only. The proposal includes land clearing for an access track and a boardwalk access path to the jetty.

Proposal location: Beadon Point, Onslow

CMS number: APP-0027006

Date referral received: 06-01-2025

Referrer: Shire of Ashburton

Proponent: Shire of Ashburton

Potential significant effects: There are potential impacts on: benthic communities and habitat from piling resulting in the loss of 0.005 ha and ongoing shading from the jetty deck; marine environmental quality from temporary and localised increases in turbidity; localised and temporary impacts to marine fauna from underwater noise during construction; and social surroundings from the potential to disturb cultural heritage.

Preliminary key environmental factors: benthic communities and habitat, marine environmental quality, marine fauna and social surroundings.

Public comment on referral information:

Do not assess:	1
Assess: a) Referral information	2
b) Environmental review - no public review	0
c) Public environmental review	0
<i>Total submissions:</i>	3

Decision: s. 38G(1) – Not Assess

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act – No advice given.

Summary of reasons pursuant to s.38G(1)(c):

The EPA has decided to not assess the proposal because:

- The EPA considers the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant or unmitigated to warrant formal assessment under Part IV of the EP Act.
- The EPA's decision has been made on the basis of the proponent implementing the proposal in accordance with the Proposal Content Document and the Marine Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix E, O2 Marine 2024). Changes to expected implementation content and/or management which are likely to result in significant environmental effects have not been considered as part of the decision for this proposal, and may result in a new referral being required for that different proposal.
- The proposal has been located so that direct impacts to benthic communities and habitat (BCH) from piling is within areas of intertidal reef and bare substrate with low biotic cover. The risk of impact to BCH from increased sediments in the water column during piling would be minimised through the use of hydraulic hammering.

- The EPA considered the sediment assessment which indicated that any release of sediment into the water column during construction is not likely to increase contaminants or toxicants to levels higher than naturally observed.
- The proposal timing has considered important ecological windows of key marine fauna species, including that no piling works will be undertaken during the humpback whale southern migration or peak turtle nesting period (August to February) and no construction disturbance of the beach will occur during peak turtle nesting period (October to February). Implementation of marine fauna management and exclusion zones; dedicated marine fauna observers; and pre- and soft-start and shutdown procedures will manage potential risks associated with underwater noise.
- Potential impacts to BCH, marine environmental quality and marine fauna are likely to be localised, temporary and minor, noting the extent and intensity of the construction activities. The environmental outcomes of the proposal are likely to be consistent with the EPA's objectives for these factors. The EPA considers the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment under Part IV of the EP Act.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys guided by Thalanyji Traditional Owners did not identify any sites with archaeological and/or ethnographic Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The EPA notes that the proponent has, and continues to, engage with relevant stakeholders, including Thalanyji Traditional Owners, on the potential environmental impacts of the proposal. No significant impacts to Aboriginal heritage sites or values are expected as a result of the proposal, and the environmental outcome of the proposal is likely to be consistent with the EPA's objective for social surroundings.
- The EPA considered the cumulative impacts of the proposal with other activities within the vicinity of the town of Onslow. It considers the small and temporary scale impacts from the proposal are not likely to contribute to cumulative impacts which undermine achievement of relevant EPA objectives.
- The EPA does not consider that the proposal impacts will combine or interact in a holistic way which requires assessment by the EPA.

Material information considered by the EPA in this decision

The EPA has considered the following material information in making its decision:

- Referral (6 January 2025)
- Referral supporting documentation (6 January 2025):
 - Appendix A: O2 Marine 2024, Onslow public jetty: BCH habitat survey, Ref: 23ENV-236/R24022
 - Appendix B: O2 Marine 2024, Onslow Recreational Jetty Sediment Sampling Report, Ref: 23ENV236/T240190
 - Appendix C: O2 Marine 2024, Marine Fauna Desktop and Impact Assessment, Ref: 23ENV236 – R240212, Rev 0
 - Appendix D: Western Environmental 2022, Onslow Fauna, Flora and Vegetation Survey, Report no: A22.052-RPT-FVSR_A
 - Appendix E: O2 Marine 2024, Marine Construction and Environmental Management Plan, Report no 23ENV236 – R240257, Rev 1

- Archae-aus 2024, Report of an Archaeological and Ethnographic Site Identification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey for the Shire of Ashburton's Onslow Recreational Jetty Project, Onslow, WA, Final 1.0, 13 December 2024
- EP Act s 3, s 4, Part IV, Admin Procedures, EPA factor and technical guidance.

Appeals: There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.



Darren Walsh

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 30 January 2025