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Attn: Mr A Tarpley / General Manager Projects & Contract Services

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

PROPOSAL: Rottnest Island Golf Course Upgrade
LOCATION: Rottnest Island Reserve 16713
PROPONENT: Rottnest Island Authority
DECISION: Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) understands that you wish to undertake the above proposal which has been referred to the Authority for consideration of its potential environmental impact.

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Nevertheless, the staff of the Office of the EPA has provided the attached advice to you as the proponent, and other relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal.

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing 7 January 2013. Information on the appeals process is available through the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website, www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au, or by telephoning 6467 5190.

Anthony Sutton
Director
Assessment and Compliance Division

24 December 2012

Encl

PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

Summary

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has received a referral from the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) to revitalise the island's 22 hectare public golf course, west of the Thomson Bay settlement.

The EPA considers the key environmental issue associated with the proposal to be the irrigation of the golf course with nutrient rich water sourced from the island's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). This presents a number of potential risks to the surrounding environment, including impacts of Garden and Herschell Lake through surface and groundwater in-flow.

Nutrient Irrigation Management Plan

The proponent requires an amendment to their current operating licence under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)* for the upgrade of the WWTP prior to irrigating the golf course with treated wastewater. As part of the approvals process, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has requested that the proponent prepare, to their satisfaction, a Nutrient Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP). DEC has reviewed a draft NIMP from the proponent and is reviewing the Plan for its adequacy.

The EPA recommends that the irrigation schedule's automated monitoring system, as detailed in the NIMP, should be regularly validated by visual inspection to ensure that it is working efficiently and that there is no overland flow or pooling being caused by irrigation. Furthermore, the proponent must ensure that the application of pesticides and fertilisers does not occur when the soil condition becomes saturated or during rainfall events.

The EPA understands that the proponent has modified the design of the golf course removing the tee-off area that was proposed to be located in the Garden Lake. The EPA supports this initiative, and recommends that no aspects of the golf course are located within and adjacent to Rottnest Lakes. Furthermore, the proponent should ensure adequate wetland buffers are identified, to the satisfaction of DEC, between the golf course and Rottnest Lakes.

EPA decision

The EPA considers that the proposal is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment as the potential impacts associated with irrigation can be managed under Part V (Industry Licensing) of the EP Act.