Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (PMaxP)

Application Number: **02861** Commencement Date: **04/04/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (PMaxP)

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Transport - Water

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Port

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2030

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (PMaxP) is an infrastructure project aimed at modernising and optimising the capacity of the Port of Geraldton (the Port) through the upgrade of existing facilities and construction of both new and replacement facilities.

The PMaxP is a significant amendment to the approved Geraldton Port Enhancement Project and Preparatory Works for the Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment; subject of Ministerial Statement 600 (see Environmental Impact Assessment: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2025a) attached as ***Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PMaxP_PartIVEIA_noapps.pdf***, Section 2, pp3 for details).

The key components of the PMaxP include the following:

- Replacement Tug Harbour
- Replacement Berth 1
- Extension of Berth 6
- New Berth 8/9.

References to PMaxP herein relate only to those components detailed as part of the referral and are included in the Project Area and Disturbance Footprint (attached). As part of ongoing Port operations there will be routine maintenance on existing berths (Berths 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) and terrestrial lots, and potentially maintenance dredging of the shipping channel and Port harbour, including the adjacent Fishing Boat Harbour; these are excluded from the scope of this referral.

From an operational perspective, the implementation of the PMaxP does not directly result in an increased throughput nor does it involve the addition of new products not already exported through the Port.

The Project Area is approximately 75 ha and the Disturbance Footprint is approximately 38 ha.

The implementation of the PMaxP requires maintenance dredging, capital dredging and piling to facilitate the construction of each component. The total specifications are as follows:

- Capital dredge volume = 237,700 (237,596) m3 (including over-dredge allowance)
- Maintenance dredge volume = 17,650 (17,629) m3 (once-off)
- Number of piles = ~520

A summary of the relevant technical specifications includes:

- Tug harbour
    - Capital dredge volume = 30,500 (30,512) m3
    - Maintenance dredge volume = 0 m3
    - Number of piles = ~40 piles
- Berth 1
    - Capital dredge volume = 22,450 (22,416) m3
    - Maintenance dredge volume = 17,650 (17,629) m3 (once-off)
    - Number of piles = ~120 piles
- Berth 6
    - Capital dredge volume = 97,400 (97,347) m3 (including land-based excavation)
    - Maintenance dredge volume = 0 m3
    - Number of piles = ~120 piles
- Berth 8/9
    - Capital dredge volume = 87,350 (87,321) m3
    - Maintenance dredge volume = 0 m3
    - Number of piles = ~240 piles

The PMaxP concept design is attached as ***Att02_P22055_PMAX_LUMEN_MODEL_026.JPG*** and ***Att03_RP22055_PMAX_LUMEN_MODEL_027.JPG***.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2001/266	Port Enhancement Project

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

The Geraldton Port Authority (now Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA)) received approval for the Geraldton Port Enhancement Project and Preparatory Works for the Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment (herein referred to as the PEP) in July 2002 by administration of Ministerial Statement 600 (MS600) including relevant conditions.

The Port upgrades associated with the PEP included deepening and widening the shipping channel, deepening of the harbour basin, reclamation of land, offshore disposal of dredge spoil, reconfiguration and construction of breakwaters, construction of a railway line on the eastern breakwater, construction of beach stabilisation groynes in Town Beach and reclamation of Town Beach by sand nourishment. The primary remaining active implementation condition on MS600 is related to Commitment 15 – the implementation of the approved Northern Beaches Stabilisation Plan. Other active MS600 conditions include reporting requirements and are expected to be incorporated with the amended proposal.

The Port currently has five operational berths (Berths 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) with existing Berths 1 and 2 deemed unsuitable for operations due to the aged wharf infrastructure. The Port also has an active material reclamation (disposal) area north of Berth 7 approved for placement of harbour sediments identified as unsuitable for unconfined disposal at sea. This facility was approved under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) in 2001 as part of the Bulk Handling Facility Environmental Action Plan.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

Western Australia (WA) State legislative context:

Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) is the primary legislation that governs environmental impact assessment (EIA) in WA. EIA in WA is conducted by the Environmental Protection Authority Services (EPAS) division of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) which has prepared administrative procedures for the purposes of establishing the practices of EIA. It was determined that PMaxP (the significant amendment to the approved PEP, subject of Ministerial Statement 600) may result in significant impacts to environmental factors as defined by EPAS thus, the project is to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act.

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) currently holds Environmental Licence L4275/1982/15 issued by DWER, permitting the bulk loading, and unloading of granular materials from or onto vessels as specified under Schedule 1 Categories 58 and 58A of the Environmental Protection Regulations. The conditions of the licence are applicable to those activities linked to these categories including the storage, handling, and transport of bulk materials within the prescribed premises as well as any wastes generated during the handling activities or infrastructure maintenance. This licence currently limits the annual production capacity of the Geraldton Port to 23 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) following a recent amendment in response to the growing global demand for mineral and energy commodities. Due to the substantial differences in scope it is expected that any future changes to the permitted import and export products or increases to annual throughput will be addressed under Part V of the EP Act via a Licence Amendment and are not subject to this referral.

Future Licence Amendments under Part V of the EP Act will be required for the new wharf decks (Berth 1, Berth 6, Berth 8/9).

Approval is not required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, as consultation has been undertaken with Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation (YSRC) and no Aboriginal heritage sites or places occur within the project area. In support of this YSRC provided an activity notice decision for the PMaxP, prepared subject to the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) (see below).

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) provides for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in Western Australia. Under the BC Act native species are listed as threatened when they have been assessed as facing a risk of extinction. Actions that propose to take threatened species or cause modification to an occurrence of a threatened ecological community require authorisation from the Minister or a delegate under s.40 and s.45 of the BC Act, respectively.

Commonwealth legislative context:

There are two Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) identified that may be impacted by the implementation of the PMaxP. These are;

- Listed threatened species and communities, and;
- Listed migratory species.

The PMaxP is subject to an activity notice and decision from YSRC, the Regional Entity for the Yamatji Nation ILUA, which confirmed that no further surveys or heritage approvals are required. The Yamatji Nation ILUA was Conclusively Registered under the *Native Title Act 1993* on 26 October 2020.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) is committed to on-going consultation throughout project development and implementation with a focus on transparent communication and the development of productive relationships with the community and key stakeholders.

Initial consultation commenced in 2022 to support preliminary project planning. As part of the next phase of consultation, the communications and engagement program will continue to:

- Inform MWPA's understanding of PMaxP's social impacts, risks, and associated mitigation opportunities.
- Provide clear, consistent and timely information regarding PMaxP to support community and stakeholder understanding.
- Proactively address community queries.

The summary of stakeholder engagement is attached as ***Att04_PMaxP_StakeholderEngagementSummaryTable_v1_20250404.docx***.

A concentrated program of consultation was undertaken between August – November 2024. This program included a combination of:

- Targeted stakeholder engagement with internal and external project stakeholders.
- Consultation through existing MWPA forums including Fishing Boat Harbour, Berth User and Community Consultative Committees.
- Project briefings with key environmental, tourism, recreation and community groups.
- Broader-reaching community information sessions.

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) has progressed consultation with YSRC to understand the tangible and intangible elements of Yamatji cultural heritage that may be directly and indirectly impacted by the proposal. To date, MWPA has met with the YSRC Heritage Manager and YSRC Heritage Coordinator, has presented to the YSRC Board, to determine the scope of consultation needed to meet YSRC requirements. An Activity Notice was submitted and response received, confirming no further surveys, approvals or specific management is required for the PMaxP.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	29001584612
Organisation name	SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2060 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Dilys Zhang
Job title	
Phone	0411191700
Email	dzhang@slrconsulting.com
Address	

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	73384989178
Organisation name	MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY
Organisation address	6530 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Damian Tully
Job title	Chief Executive Officer
Phone	(08) 9964 0520
Email	pmaxpdocuments@midwestports.com.au
Address	298 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, WA 6530

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) implement an accredited ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS ensures that MWPA proactively maintain a register of all environmental compliance obligations and undertake all works in conformance with those obligations. Damian Tully, (MWPA CEO) has no past or ongoing proceedings considered relevant to this referral.

In August 2010, the Geraldton Port Authority (GPA, now MWPA) was advised by the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) that it was considered non-compliant on the reporting conditions (5-1 and 5-2) of Ministerial Statement 600 (approving the PEP). In response the GPA prepared the necessary Performance Compliance Reports and Performance Review Report and provided these to the OEPA. The reports were accepted, and no further action was taken by the OEPA.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) has adopted an environmental policy which sets out the organisation's commitment to minimising environmental impacts associated with the Port's operations. The Environmental Policy commits MWPA to:

- Planning and outcome-based decision making that is underpinned by environmental management and sustainability principles that:
    - Ensure resources are used efficiently, particularly energy, water and raw materials
    - Minimise waste and emissions to prevent pollution
    - Protect public health and improve social amenity
    - Identify and manage environmental risks, to minimise impacts, and
    - Provide stewardship of Champion Bay through environmental leadership
- Protecting and improving air, land, water and habitat quality within its boundary of control, and where practical and feasible, influence beyond these boundaries
- Complying with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations, and the guiding principles of ISO 14001, 'Environmental Management Systems'
- Establishing, monitoring, reporting and auditing performance against environmental objectives and targets to ensure MWPA environmental commitments are met, and
- Developing and implementing innovative programs and initiatives to advance environmental stewardship, mitigate impacts, and drive continuous improvement.

The policy is reviewed every five years and requires approval by the Board at that time. A copy of the reviewed policy is published on MWPA intranet and internet sites. MWPA Environmental Policy is reviewed periodically by the Executive and Leadership Teams. As part of Management Review cycles policies are updated to ensure their effectiveness and consistency with legislation and the quality of MWPA services as delivered to its customers while meeting interested parties' expectations for environmental management.

Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) maintains an Environmental Management Plan (EMP; attached as ***Att05_MWPA_EMP_A1029805.pdf***) as part of achieving its obligations under the Port Authorities Act 1999 and commitments as defined in the MWPA Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and Environmental Policy. The EMP describes MWPA environmental management and continual improvement programs in a structure aligned to the ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management System standard. It is designed to demonstrate how MWPA complies with obligations and enterprise priorities that have been aligned to sustain and manage Port services and activities in a manner that prevents and mitigates impacts on the environment and community in which it operates.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	73384989178
Organisation name	MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY
Organisation address	6530 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Damian Tully
Job title	Chief Executive Officer
Phone	(08) 9964 0520
Email	pmaxpdocuments@midwestports.com.au
Address	298 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, WA 6530

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	29001584612
Organisation name	SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2060 NSW
Representative's name	Dilys Zhang
Representative's job title	
Phone	0411191700
Email	dzhang@slrconsulting.com
Address	

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	73384989178
Organisation name	MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY
Organisation address	6530 WA
Representative's name	Damian Tully
Representative's job title	Chief Executive Officer
Phone	(08) 9964 0520
Email	pmaxpdocuments@midwestports.com.au
Address	298 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, WA 6530

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

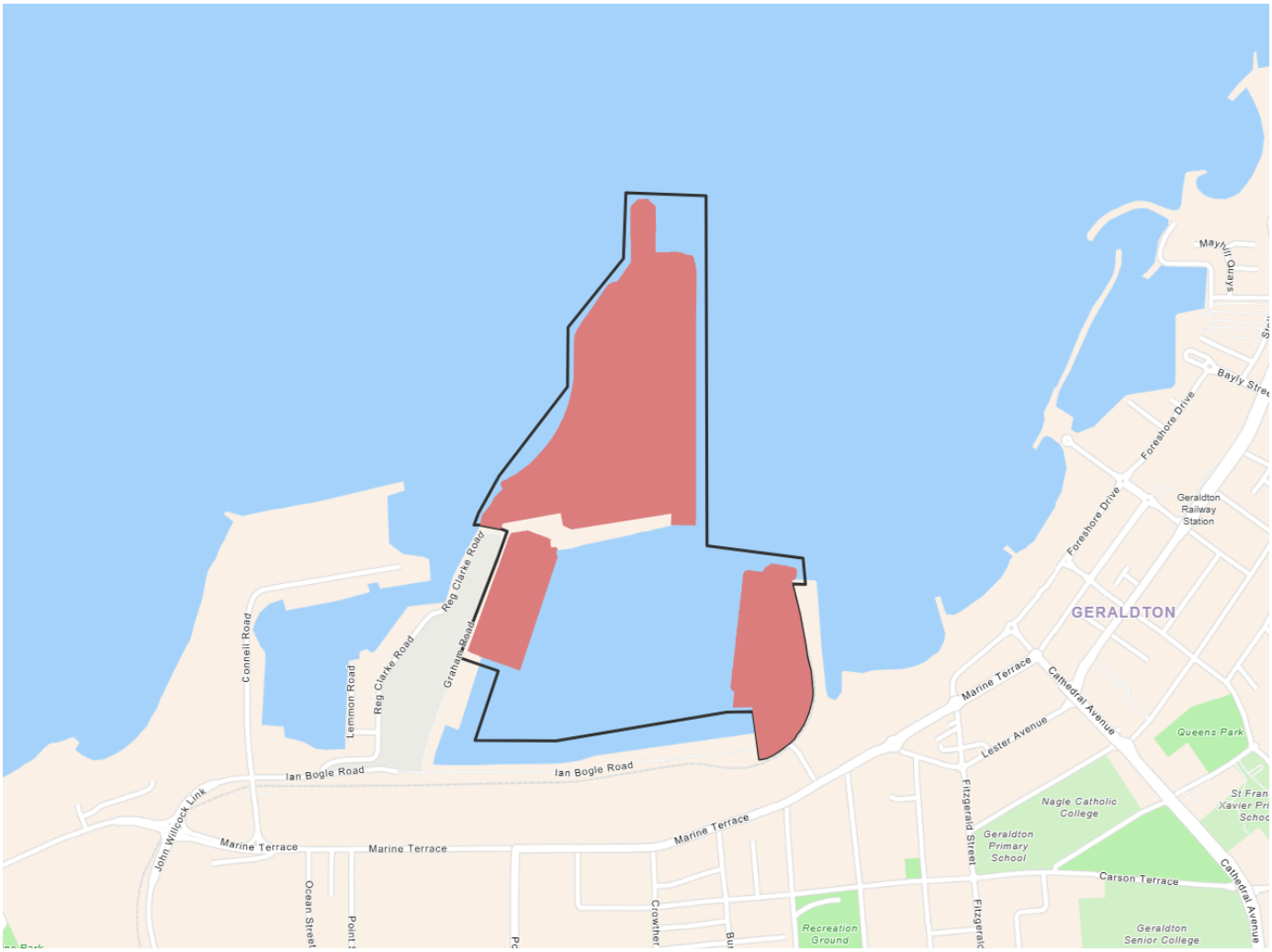
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 74.65 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 37.59 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Port of Geraldton

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Western Australia

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

Crown Land and Waters Reserve 25300

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The project area encompasses the land and waters of the Port of Geraldton and existing shipping channel and nearshore waters abutting the existing Port in Champion Bay. Champion Bay is a highly dynamic environment that is exposed to strong storm swell from the western quarter in winter and strong southerly winds in spring and summer producing northerly longshore currents, and light winds in autumn. These seasonal conditions result in naturally turbulent and turbid waters in winter and spring, and clear calmer waters in summer and autumn. The bay is also affected by marine heat waves on occasion, rare cyclones and occasional river inflows.

The coastal ecosystem around Geraldton is considered to have a high marine and terrestrial biodiversity value. The limestone substrate, which underlies the majority of Champion Bay and its surroundings, stands out as a prominent feature. Factors such as the presence of limestone reefs, their relief and profile, and the depth of sand overlaying the reef all contribute to the ecological dynamics of the area. Exposure to prevailing south-westerly swells and seas significantly influences sand movement within Champion Bay. The sand moves over seasonal and long-term timeframes in response to seasonal hydrodynamic influences. Distribution of benthic communities and habitats in Champion Bay is highly variable over time in response to shifting sands and seasonal biomass due to variable turbulence and light availability. The marine habitats in the project area include:

- Bare subtidal soft sediments;
- Seagrass meadows;
- Mixed seagrass and macroalgae communities;
- Subtidal low relief reef complex; and
- coastal waters.

The foreshore areas are highly modified hardstands in the current Port boundary.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

Approximately 21 ha of the project area is within the existing Port. An additional 17 ha of marine waters will be developed as part of the PMaxP for the operation of the Port. All project areas are within the Port Reserve 25300.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

There are several Australia Sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) haul-out sites within and around the existing Port. These include the intertidal area below the existing Berth 6, areas of the northern rock wall and Seal Rocks, all of which are artificial features. See ***Att06_FigA_640_30470_F028_AusSealionHaulout_05.PDF***.

An artificial Osprey (*Pandion haeliatus*) nest is located at Berth 2 and annually occupied by a breeding pair. See ***Att07_FigB_640_30470_F042_OspreyNest _01.PDF***.

These features are artificially installed or modified and do not occur naturally.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The waters inside the Port range between approximately 0 mCD and -13 mCD where the shallowest waters occur within the existing Tug Harbour and the deepest around the existing berths and the basin. The waters to the north of the existing Port and west of the existing shipping channel range between approximately -2 mCD and -8 mCD where the shallowest waters occur along the existing northern breakwater. The existing shipping channel is about -13 mCD.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

There is little to no natural terrestrial habitat for native flora and fauna within the disturbance footprint illustrated in s2.2.1. The terrestrial areas within the disturbance footprint comprise of hardstands and Port buildings. Within the Port, an artificially erected Osprey nest at Berth 2 is occupied by a breeding pair annually however, this is outside the disturbance footprint (see ***Att07_FigB_640_30470_F042_OspreyNest_01.PDF***).

The intertidal and subtidal marine areas have been modified or experience disturbance associated with the operation of the existing Port. Intertidal marine habitats consist of modified rock walls and existing Port infrastructure. Subtidal habitats also consist of submerged existing Port infrastructure and soft sediment seabed. The waters within the Port and the existing shipping channel are assumed to be bare soft sediment habitat from historical dredging and vessel activities. Seagrass and macroalgae are only found in waters outside these areas north of the existing Port. Subtidal habitats are described in detail in the attached Geraldton Port Maximisation Project: Benthic Habitat Survey Report (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att08_675_072500_00001_R01_v0.2_PMaxP_BCHSurveyReport_240830.PDF***, Section 2 and 4, pp5 and 13, respectively).

The marine habitat within and surrounding the disturbance footprint is considered suitable habitat for shore/wading birds, seabirds, marine mammals, fish, elasmobranchs and sessile and mobile infauna and epifauna. Based on the level of disturbance experienced in these marine habitats, associated fauna are likely to be disturbance-tolerant, cosmopolitan species. However, one threatened and three migratory species, listed under the EPBC Act, were considered likely to occur within and around the disturbance footprint (see ***Att09_ProtectedMatters_MNESlayers_March28th2025.PDF*** for complete search results). These are:

- Australian Sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) - endangered;
- Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) – migratory;
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) - migratory; and
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – migratory.

The waters within the surrounding the disturbance footprint form part of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for three of the aforementioned conservation-listed species:

- Foraging (male) habitat for the Australian Sea-lion;
- Migration (north and south) corridor for the Humpback Whale; and
- Foraging (provisioning young) habitat for the Caspian Tern.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

No remnant native terrestrial vegetation occurs within the disturbance footprint. Seagrass meadows of varying percent cover occur in the waters in Champion Bay outside the existing Port and the shipping channel. These meadows are comprised of species from the *Posidonia australis* complex and sometimes co-occur with macroalgae and hard coral. *Posidonia australis* complex seagrass meadows are listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) as a Priority 3(i) ecological community. P3 are 'Poorly known ecological communities', with P3(i) classed as; '*Communities that are known from several to many occurrences, a significant number or area of which are not under threat of habitat destruction or degradation'* (DBCA, 2023; ***Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia Version 35*** link).

The '*Posidonia australis* complex seagrass meadows ecological community' was nominated for assessment under the EPBC Act in 2011, with the assessment period closing in 2013. Public consultation was undertaken for the ecological community in 2014. This process resulted in the *Posidonia australis* seagrass meadows of the Manning-Hawkesbury ecoregion being listed as endangered. However, the wider Posidonia complex (which spans from Shark Bay in the north-west, across the southern half of Australia, to Lake Wallis in the north-east) was not listed under the EPBC Act.

Marine benthic communities and habitats are described in detail in the Geraldton Port Maximisation Project: Benthic Habitat Survey Report (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att08_675_072500_00001_R01_v0.2_PMaxP_BCHSurveyReport_240830.PDF***, Section 2 and 4, pp5 and 13, respectively).

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

There are no Commonwealth Heritage places within the project area.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

No indigenous heritage is expected to be impacted by the project as the project area encompasses existing Port land, waters and reclamation. In line with the heritage management requirements of the Yamatji Nation ILUA, MWPA prepared an activity notice for YSRC review and consideration and the activity notice response confirmed that no heritage surveys and management plans were required.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Champion Bay is characterised as a high-energy coastal environment influenced by a range of dynamic factors, including waves, tides, swell, currents, winds, and the morphology and composition of the seabed.

Southerly winds are the most frequent and strongest, occurring approximately 70% of the time with wind speeds exceeding 15m/s for less than 2% of the time. These winds dominate in spring, summer and autumn while winds from the east to south-east dominate in winter (RHDHV, 2023).

Currents in the very nearshore (less than ~4 m water depth) are highly correlated with episodic high wave events, whilst currents in deeper water (greater than ~4 m) are primarily driven by winds with less correlation with wave events. The tide at Geraldton is microtidal with a spring tidal range of 0.8 m and neap tidal range of 0.4 m. Barometric and wind effects can cause surges such that water levels exceed 1m above the astronomical tide level during storm events. The astronomical tide results in currents which flood in a southerly direction and ebb in a northerly direction in the Geraldton region (the exact direction varies depending on the local shoreline and bathymetry) (RHDHV, 2023).

These elements, combined with the presence of benthic ecosystems, contribute to complex nearshore sediment transport processes. The Port is recognised as a sediment sink (RHDHV, 2023). Physical elements of the Port including rock walls, reclaimed land, the main shipping channel and (to a lesser extent) the Batavia Coast Marina, act as a barrier to longshore transport of sediment. The interaction between coastal processes and elements of the Port can result in sediment accretion within Port waters and against reclamation rock walls.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No World Heritage in the Study Locality.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No National Heritage in the Study Locality.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Ramsar Wetland in the Study Locality.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Anous tenuirostris melanops	Australian Lesser Noddy
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale
No	No	Caladenia elegans	Elegant Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia hoffmanii	Hoffman's Spider-orchid
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris canutus	Red Knot, Knot
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Carcharias taurus (west coast population)	Grey Nurse Shark (west coast population)
No	No	Carcharodon carcharias	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle
No	No	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle
No	No	Dasyurus geoffroii	Chuditch, Western Quoll
No	No	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
No	No	Diomedea amsterdamensis	Amsterdam Albatross
No	No	Diomedea epomophora	Southern Royal Albatross
No	No	Diomedea exulans	Wandering Albatross
No	No	Drummondita ericoides	Morseby Range Drummondita
No	No	Egernia stokesii badia	Western Spiny-tailed Skink, Baudin Island Spiny-tailed Skink
No	No	Eubalaena australis	Southern Right Whale

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Eucalyptus cuprea	Mallee Box
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl
No	No	Limosa lapponica menzbieri	Northern Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit, Russkoye Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
No	No	Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
No	No	Natator depressus	Flatback Turtle
Yes	Yes	Neophoca cinerea	Australian Sea-lion, Australian Sea Lion
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	Parantechinus apicalis	Dibbler
No	No	Phaethon rubricauda westralis	Red-tailed Tropicbird (Indian Ocean), Indian Ocean Red-tailed Tropicbird
No	No	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
No	No	Rhincodon typus	Whale Shark
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped Hammerhead
No	No	Sternula albifrons	Little Tern
No	No	Sternula nereis nereis	Australian Fairy Tern
No	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Zanda latirostris	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Short-billed Black-cockatoo

Ecological communities

—

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The proposed action has potential to impact on one threatened species:

- Australian Sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*), listed as endangered under the EPBC Act.

A summary of the potential direct and indirect impacts on the Australian Sea-lion is provided below and detailed in the EPBC Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025c; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***). All documents referenced in this response are also attached in the aforementioned document.

A. Potential direct impacts:

1. Mobilisation of contaminants and spills

Contaminants in the sediments may be mobilised during dredging and piling and accidental spills can distribute contaminants harmful to the Australian Sea-lion in the marine environment.

There is limited information on the impacts of specific contaminants to juvenile or adult Australian Sea-lions. Some contaminants, such as lead and cadmium, have been predicted to exacerbate anaemia caused by hookworms in Australian Sea-lion pups and maternal transfer of contaminants may be likely (Taylor, et al., 2021; ***Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at high concentrations in neonatal Australian pinnipeds*** link; Taylor, et al., 2022; ***Non-essential heavy metals and protective effects of selenium against mercury toxcitiy in endangered***).

2. Temporary elevated underwater and onshore noise impacts

No in-air exposure to noise is expected to impact the Australian Sea-lion however, underwater noise and vibration impacts are predicted (Curtin University, 2024; SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix D and Appendix C, respectively). Underwater noise and vibrations from piling and capital dredging have the potential to affect Australian Sea-lions foraging or transiting through the area of impact. Cumulative exposure to underwater noise can result in temporary threshold shifts (TTS) within an impact area where Australian Sea-lion hearing may be temporarily compromised. Permanent threshold shifts (PTS) impact areas, where permanent hearing loss is predicted, are also modelled for some works locations. These distances are only identified based on cumulative exposure, are smaller and reside entirely within the TTS areas. Underwater noise modelling predicted the maximum TTS distances from each works location as follows (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix C):

- Berth 1 – 208 m
- Berth 6 – 11 m
- Berth 8/9 – 168 m, and
- Tug harbour – 20 m.

The TTS impact zones at Berth 1 and Berth 8/9 would encompass the waters adjacent to the haul-out site along the eastern edge of the existing breakwater and the waters east of the popular haul-out site at Seal Rocks. This could impair the ability of individuals that may enter the water from the haul-out site or those that are foraging or transiting in and out of the Port to forage, navigate and/or evade predators.

3. Temporary increased risk of vessel interactions during construction

The Australian Sea-lion may be at an increased risk of vessel interactions during construction in and around the Port noting that the individuals that frequent the Port are regularly exposed to vessel traffic with no vessel strike recorded to date. Nonetheless, these interactions may result in injuries or fatalities if not adequately managed.

4. Temporary increased risk of entanglement and entrapment

Marine construction equipment deployed in the water and marine debris present risks of entanglement/entrapment to the Australian Sea-lion. The proposed action is unlikely to generate marine debris that would enter the Port waters and pose a risk to the Australian Sea-lion.

5. Permanent loss or modification of BCH

The proposed action would result in the loss/modification of up to 19 ha of benthic communities and habitat (BCH) from dredging and the installation of structures. This comprises seagrass, macroalgae and bare soft sediment and constitutes <0.01% of the foraging Biologically Important Area (BIA). These habitats may be unavailable during construction (temporary); however, they will continue to be available to the Australian Sea-lion following construction completion, albeit modified. The newly installed marine infrastructure would be suitable haul-out habitat and the newly operational Port waters would constitute potential foraging habitat.

6. Permanent loss of Australian Sea-lion haul-out habitat

The proposed action would also involve the temporary exclusion of individuals from existing artificial haul-out areas in the Port (i.e. existing northern breakwater and underneath Berth 6) during construction. These temporary exclusions would be staged based on the area of works such that some haul-out habitats would remain available. Project construction would also include the installation of suitable Australian Sea-lion haul-out habitat as part of the proposed marine infrastructure.

B. Potential indirect impacts:

1. Elevated turbidity and increased sedimentation (resulting in temporary modification of BCH)

Dredging and piling during construction will temporarily affect water quality which may temporarily alter the condition of potential foraging habitat and deter the Australian Sea-lion from foraging and swimming through these areas. The mobilisation of sediments during construction could lead to a temporary increase in total suspended solids (TSS) for the duration of each dredge campaign in foraging areas that constitute <0.01% of the BIA.

2. Introduction/spread of marine pests

The proposed action increases the risk of the introduction/spread of marine pests that may modify existing Australian Sea-lion foraging and haul-out habitats in and around the Port, as construction vessels may be required to enter Western Australian waters from other jurisdictions.

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Australian Sea-lion with the implementation of management actions detailed in the Marine Fauna Management Plan: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix B (author and date reference used only herein)). A summary of the rationale behind the responses to the significant impact criteria for a critically endangered or endangered species is outlined below and detailed in the EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project attached (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2025c; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Section 3, pp26). All documents referenced in this response are also attached in the aforementioned document.

An action is likely to have a significant impact on a critically endangered or endangered species is there is a real chance or possibility that it will:

a. lead to a long term decrease in the size of a population

Individuals of the Houtman Abrolhos subpopulation are likely to frequent the waters and foreshores in and around the Port while foraging, resting and sheltering from predators and frequently haul-out along the foreshore and Port infrastructure.

Potential impact A1. Mobilisation of contaminants and spills

There is limited information on the impacts of specific contaminants to juvenile or adult Australian Sea-lions. However, bioavailable contaminant concentrations in the sampled sediments did not exceed default guidelines values (DGV) outlined in the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG; ***Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PMaxP_PartIVEIA_noapps.pdf***, Section 7, pp29) and unlikely to lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population (ANZECC and ARMCANZ, 2018; #3 link; SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025c; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Section 3, pp26).

The risk of accidental spills is considered to be low following the implementation of management actions (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b).

Potential impact A2. Temporarily elevated underwater and onshore noise

Onshore noise is not expected to impacts the Australian Sea-Lion (Curtin University, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix D).

A series of management actions have been proposed in the MFMP to mitigate this impact, including (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b):

- Communication of expectations and positive communication during construction
- Implementation of activity-specific shutdown and observation zones (based on modelled likely worst-case scenario (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix C)
- Pre-start observations and soft starts
- Dedicated and trained marine fauna observers
- A warning and stop-work procedure
- Explicit instructions on when piling can commence or recommence, and
- Limiting piling to daylight hours only.

A3. Temporary increased risk of vessel interactions during construction

An existing Port of Geraldton Australian Sea Lion Management Plan (Mid West Ports Authority, 2025; ***Att11_202501_MWPA_AustralianSeaLionManagementPlan_A2239714.PDF***, Section 3, Table 5, pp18) currently manages vessel strike risks from activities associated with the Port, and no vessel strike incidents have been recorded in the Port to date. The MFMP has been developed to manage this potential impact during construction (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b). Actions include those identified in (a), and:

- Implementation of appropriate approach and separation distances (as per State legislation) and vessel manoeuvres to avoid collision, and
- Strict vessel speeds.

A4. Temporary increased risk of entanglement and entrapment

The proposed action is unlikely to generate marine debris that would enter the Port waters and pose a risk to the Australian Sea-lion. However, management actions would be implemented to reduce/alleviate the risk of entanglement and entrapment including those mentioned in (a) and (b) and proper waster disposal and management of mooring lines (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b).

Based on the above, the proposed action is not expected to decrease the Australian Sea-lion population.

Based on the above, the proposed action is unlikely to lead to the long-term decrease in the Australian Sea-lion population.

b. reduce the area of occupancy of the species

B1. Permanent loss or modification of BCH

The Australian Sea-lion would not be permanently excluded from the wharf decks, rock walls and waters below and around the newly installed structures and the waters would still constitute foraging habitat. These modifications are unlikely to deter the Australian Sea-lion as the continual presence in and around Port waters and on Port infrastructure has demonstrated their resilience and resourcefulness.

B2. Permanent loss of Australian Sea-lion haul-out habitat

These habitats will be reinstated such that there will be no net loss of Australian Sea-lion haul-out habitat in the Project Area.

B3. Elevated turbidity and increased sedimentation (resulting in the temporary modification of BCH)

The Study Area has undergone capital and maintenance dredging historically in the presence of the local Australian Sea-lions and individuals were frequently recorded in the vicinity of the works (LeProvost, et al., 2007; #4 link) and continue to persist in the Study Area. The temporary increase in TSS is not expected to permanently reduce the area of occupancy of the Australia Sea-lion, particularly since the areas temporarily affected forms <0.01% of the BIA. Higher quality, less disturbed habitat occurs outside, and in the vicinity of, the Study Area.

B4. Temporary elevated underwater and onshore noise impacts (see also (a))

Although these habitats will be disturbed during Project construction, the Australian Sea-lion will not be excluded from these areas but rather the disturbing activity would cease until they vacate (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b). Elevated noise may deter the Australian Sea-lion from utilising these habitats during construction; however, this disturbance is temporary, and individuals who frequent the Port have been exposed to similar disturbances historically and continue to use the Port waters and infrastructure.

B5. Introduction/spread of marine pests

The proposed action would continue to follow the Port's rigorous biofouling control measures in direct consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and DPIRD will continue with the routine monitoring such that the introduction/spread of marine pests is unlikely.

Based on the above, the proposed action is unlikely to permanently reduce the area of occupancy of the Australian Sea-lion.

c. fragment an existing population into two or more populations

The Australian Sea-lion is a highly mobile species that utilises a wide range of habitats. The proposed action will not create any barriers between habitats or cause a disturbance that would cause the local subpopulation to fragment.

d. adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species

The Study Area contains foraging, resting and sheltering habitat for the species and is mapped as a foraging BIA for the species. However, it is not considered habitat critical to the survival of the Australian Sea-lion as it is highly disturbed as an operational Port and similar, higher quality, less disturbed habitat occurs in areas outside of the Study Area. Breeding activity on the Houtman Abrolhos is more than 60 km away from the Study Area.

e. disrupt the breeding cycle of a population

This species does not breed in the Study Area. Adults (mostly males) may forage and shelter in the Study Area; however, it only forms a very small portion of habitats with similar values available to the Australian Sea-lion regionally. No individuals are expected to be harmed by the construction of the Project with the implementation of the MFMP (see (a); SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b).

Thus, the proposed action is unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycle of the Australian Sea-lion population.

f. modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline

See (a) and (b). The proposed action is unlikely to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the Australian Sea-lion is likely to decline.

g. result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat

See (b). The proposed action is unlikely to introduce or promote the spread of any invasive species known to be harmful to the Australian Sea-lion.

h. introduce disease that may cause the species to decline, or

The proposed action is unlikely to discharge water contaminated with human refuse into Australian Sea-lion habitat or introduce or facilitate the spread of feral animals that may introduce/spread disease to the Australian Sea-lion. Thus, the proposed action is unlikely to introduce disease that may cause the Australian Sea-lion to decline.

i. interfere with the recovery of the species

Only one recovery action/objective is relevant to the proposed action from the Recovery Plan for the *Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion (Neophoca cinerea*) (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2013; #5 link) regarding vessel strike and this will be managed in the MFMP (see (a); SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b).

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.4.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is not expected to significantly impact the Australian Sea-lion with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures in the MFMP (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix B). Hence, the proposed action is not expected to be a controlled action.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

A summary of the proposed mitigation measures detailed in the MFMP is provided here (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix B):

- Effective and positive communication between vessel crews, construction personnel and marine fauna observer/s
- Effective training for vessel crews and construction personnel, including daily toolbox talks
- Limiting construction vessel movements and activities to protect potential habitat outside of the disturbance footprint
- Implement vessel speed limits
- Strategic use of silt curtains and booms to protect potential habitat outside of the disturbance footprint (where it is possible, safe and would not cause further damage to habitat or present a risk of entanglement to marine fauna)
- Manage the introduction and spread of marine pests
- Minimise access to haul-out sites where works are scheduled while maintaining access to haul-out sites outside of the scheduled works area
- Aim to increase suitable haul-out site habitat during detailed design
- Active observations by a dedicated, JNCC (or equivalent) qualified marine fauna observer on each construction vessel or landside location with sufficient view of marine construction activities and direct 2-way communication with vessels to report any marine megafauna observations and issue warnings in respective management zones (observation or shutdown)
- Implementation of appropriate and safe avoidance manoeuvres and/or stop the vessel if Australian Sea-lions are observed within 100 m of the vessel (as per the BC Reg Separation Distances)
- Vessels and personnel are not to approach Australian Sea-lions
- Maintaining a 10 m distance from Australian Sea-lions on land
- All waste will be disposed off-site and immediate reporting and recovery of any accidental release of waste or spills
- Mooring lines to be managed to avoid loops
- Incorporation of a deflector head, grate, or similar on the trailing suction hopper dredge
- Piling to be carried out during daylight hours only
- Prestart marine fauna observations and soft starts to be implemented during piling
- Activity of haul-out Australian Sea-lions to be monitored, and piling to cease if individuals enter the water
- Recommencement of piling following reported marine megafauna in the respective shutdown zone only after marine megafauna has vacated the shutdown zone or not observed for more than 20 minutes
- Marine fauna observer monitoring logged and reported to MWPA, and
- Adaptive management and reviews of management actions upon any updates to approval conditions, changes to construction activities or following any incidents or non-compliance.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Anous stolidus	Common Noddy
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Ardenna carneipes	Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater
No	No	Balaenoptera edeni	Bryde's Whale
No	No	Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris canutus	Red Knot, Knot
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Carcharhinus longimanus	Oceanic Whitetip Shark
No	No	Carcharias taurus	Grey Nurse Shark
No	No	Carcharodon carcharias	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle
No	No	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle
No	No	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
No	No	Diomedea amsterdamensis	Amsterdam Albatross
No	No	Diomedea epomophora	Southern Royal Albatross
No	No	Diomedea exulans	Wandering Albatross

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Eubalaena australis	Southern Right Whale
Yes	Yes	Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern
No	No	Lamna nasus	Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark
No	No	Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
No	No	Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes	Yes	Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale
No	No	Mobula alfredi	Reef Manta Ray, Coastal Manta Ray
No	No	Mobula birostris	Giant Manta Ray
No	No	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
No	No	Natator depressus	Flatback Turtle
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	Orcinus orca	Killer Whale, Orca
Yes	Yes	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
No	No	Phaethon lepturus	White-tailed Tropicbird
No	No	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
No	No	Rhincodon typus	Whale Shark
No	No	Sternula albifrons	Little Tern
No	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.5.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The proposed action has the potential to impact three migratory species:

- Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
- Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), and
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

A summary of the potential direct and indirect impacts on migratory species is provided below and detailed in the EPBC Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Section 3, pp26). All documents referenced in this response are also attached in the aforementioned document.

A. Potential direct impacts

1. Permanent loss or modification of BCH

The proposed action would result in the loss/modification of up to 19 ha of BCH from dredging and the installation of structures. This comprises seagrass, macroalgae and bare soft sediment and constitutes <0.01% of the foraging BIA of the Caspian Tern, <0.01% of the migration BIA of the Humpback Whale and a small proportion of potential foraging habitat for the Osprey.

2. Mobilisation of contaminants and spills

Contaminants in the sediments may be mobilised during dredging and piling and accidental spills can distribute contaminants harmful to migratory species in the marine environment. Although contaminants were detected in and around the Port, the bioavailable contaminant concentrations in the sampled sediments did not exceed DGVs outlined in the ANZG (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2025a; ***Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PMaxP_PartIVEIA_noapps.pdf***, Section 7, pp29; ANZECC and ARMCANZ, 2018; ***Toxicant default guideline values for sediment quality*** link).

3. Temporary elevated underwater and onshore noise impacts

No in-air exposure to noise is expected to substantially impact the Caspian Tern or Osprey as their continual presence in and around the Port has demonstrated their resilience to this disturbance during historical piling and dredging activities. However, underwater noise and vibration impacts are predicted for the Humpback Whale (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix C). Underwater noise and vibrations from piling and capital dredging have the potential to affect Humpback Whales transiting through the area of impact. Cumulative exposure to underwater noise can result in TTS within an impact area where hearing may be temporarily compromised and affect navigation, communication and/or predator evasion. Permanent threshold shifts (PTS) impact areas, where permanent hearing loss is predicted, are also modelled for some work locations. These distances are only identified based on cumulative exposure, are smaller and reside entirely within the TTS areas. Underwater noise modelling predicted the maximum TTS distances from each works location as follows (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2024; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix C):

- Berth 1 – 4,213 m
- Berth 6 – 742 m
- Berth 8/9 – 3,837 m, and
- Tug harbour – 609 m.

4. Temporary increased risk of vessel interactions during construction

The Humpback Whale may be at an increased risk of vessel interactions during construction in and around the Port noting that the waters in and around the Port currently experience vessel traffic with no vessel strike recorded to date. Nonetheless, these interactions may result in injuries or fatalities if not adequately

managed.

5. Temporary increased risk of entanglement and entrapment

Marine construction equipment deployed in the water and marine debris present risks of entanglement/entrapment to the Humpback Whale. The proposed action is unlikely to generate marine debris.

B. Potential indirect impacts

1. Elevated turbidity and increased sedimentation (resulting in temporary modification of BCH)

Dredging and piling during construction will temporarily affect water quality which may temporarily alter the condition of potential foraging habitat for the Caspian Tern and Osprey and potential migration habitat for the Humpback Whale. Elevated turbidity and sedimentation may deter migratory species from foraging or swimming through these areas. The mobilisation of sediments during construction could lead to a temporary increase in TSS for the duration of each dredge campaign in foraging areas that constitute <0.01% of the Caspian Tern's foraging BIA, <0.01% of the Humpback Whale's migration BIA and a small proportion of Osprey foraging habitat.

2. Introduction/spread of marine pests

The proposed action increases the risk of the introduction/spread of marine pests that may modify existing migratory species' foraging and migratory habitats in and around the Port, as construction vessels may be required to enter Western Australian waters from other jurisdictions.

4.1.5.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.5.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

The proposed action is not expected to have a significant impact on the Caspian Tern, Osprey or Humpback Whale. The Study Area does not provide habitat for an ecologically significant proportion of any migratory species' population and the expected habitat modification/loss is not expected to be substantial at <0.01% of the foraging BIA of the Caspian Tern; <0.01% of the migration BIA of the Humpback Whale (noting the depths in the Disturbance Footprint is likely too shallow); and a small proportion of disturbed foraging habitat for the Osprey. Furthermore, the artificial Osprey nesting post will not be disturbed as part of the PMaxP and the breeding pair that occupy that nest have successfully raised young most years under the existing disturbance of an operating Port. A summary of the rationale behind the responses to the significant impact criteria for migratory species is outlined below and detailed in the EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project attached (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2025c; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Section 3, pp26). All documents referenced in this response are also attached in the aforementioned document.

An action is likely to have a significant impact on a migratory species if there is a real chance or possibility that it will"

a. substantially modify (including by fragmenting, altering fire regimes, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species)

Potential impact A1. Permanent loss or modification of BCH

Habitats in the Disturbance Footprint are likely to remain available to the Caspian Tern and Osprey, albeit modified. Potential foraging habitat will be modified to potential loafing habitat, while the waters underneath the wharf decks would still provide habitat for prey species. The size of this habitat modification is <0.01% of the foraging BIA of the Caspian Tern and a small proportion of potential foraging habitat for the Osprey. Furthermore, existing vessel activities and the proximity of the Disturbance Footprint to an operational Port are likely to render habitat in the Disturbance Footprint as sub-optimal for foraging for these species. The Disturbance Footprint is located partially in the existing Port and encompasses the waters just north of the Port, and the depths are shallower than 8 mCD (Precision Hydrographic Services, 2021; ***Att12_PHS21038_MWP_R002_FinalSurveyReport_Rev0.pdf***, Section J, pp14 ; i-Boating, 2025; ***Fishing Marine Charts Navigation*** link). These waters form <0.01% of the Humpback Whale migration BIA and are considered unsuitable to form part of the primary Humpback Whale migration corridor. Thus, the proposed action is unlikely to substantially modify important habitat for migratory species.

Potential impact B1. Elevated turbidity and increased sedimentation (resulting in temporary modification of BCH)

The areas of temporary modification of habitat as a result of elevated turbidity and increased sedimentation are a small proportion of ubiquitous habitat outside of these areas (i.e. <0.01% of the foraging and migration BIA for the Caspian Tern and Humpback Whale, respectively, and a small proportion of potential foraging habitat for the Osprey). These impacts are temporary and unlikely to substantially modify habitat of migratory species.

b. result in an invasive species that is harmful to the migratory species becoming established in an area of important habitat for the migratory species, or

The proposed action would continue to follow the Port's rigorous biofouling control measures in direct consultation with the DPIRD and DPIRD will continue with the routine monitoring such that the introduction/spread of marine pests is unlikely to become established in potential habitat for migratory species.

c. seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of a population of a migratory species.

The Caspian Tern individuals that forage in and around the Study Area are not considered an ecologically significant proportion of the population as no breeding sites are known in or around the Study Area and this species is not known to aggregate in large numbers outside of breeding sites.

The breeding Osprey pair at the Port is not considered to form an ecologically significant proportion of the population (Johnstone pers comms, 2024; Burbidge pers comms, 2025). Furthermore, the nest at the Port will not be removed or modified by the proposed action and has been in use for over 20 years, the breeding pair is currently monitored by Birdlife Australia volunteers and has successfully raised fledglings most years under the existing operational noise and disturbance and historical construction activities at the Port. This species is known to be adapted to anthropogenic disturbances where breeding sites are located in urban areas (Birdlife Australia, 2023; ***Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*** link).

Based on the characteristics of the nearshore waters, and evidence that the Humpback Whale migration corridor traditionally follows the 38 m isobath, some 10 km offshore (LeProvost, et al., 2007; ***Geraldton port dredging project 2002-3: The issues, the events and the final outcome*** link), an ecologically significant proportion of the west coast Humpback Whale population is unlikely to occur.

Thus, the proposed action is not expected to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of a population of migratory species.

4.1.5.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.5.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The proposed action is not expected to significantly impact any of the aforementioned migratory species with the implementation of appropriate management measures in the MFMP (SLR Consulting Pty Ltd, 2025b; ***Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf***, Appendix B). Hence, the proposed action is not expected to be a controlled action.

4.1.5.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

A summary of the proposed mitigation measures detailed in the MFMP is provided here (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2025b;
Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf, Appendix B):

- Effective and positive communication between vessel crews, construction personnel and marine fauna observer/s
- Effective training for vessel crews and construction personnel, including daily toolbox talks
- Limiting construction vessel movements and activities to protect potential habitat outside of the disturbance footprint
- Implement vessel speed limits
- Strategic use of silt curtains and booms to protect potential habitat outside of the disturbance footprint (where it is possible, safe and would not cause further damage to habitat or present a risk of entanglement to marine fauna)
- Manage the introduction and spread of marine pests
- Active observations by a dedicated, JNCC (or equivalent) qualified marine fauna observer on each construction vessel or landside location with sufficient view of marine construction activities and direct 2-way communication with vessels to report any marine megafauna observations and issue warnings in respective management zones (observation or shutdown)
- Implementation of appropriate and safe avoidance manoeuvres and/or stop the vessel if whales are observed within 300 m of the vessel (as per the BC Reg Separation Distances)
- Vessels and personnel are not to approach whales
- No unlawful modification of the Osprey nesting post
- All waste will be disposed of offsite and immediate reporting and recovery of any accidental release of waste or spills
- Mooring lines to be managed to avoid loops
- Incorporation of a deflector head, grate, or similar on the trailing suction hopper dredge
- Piling to be carried out during daylight hours only
- Prestart marine fauna observations and soft starts to be implemented during piling
- Recommencement of piling following reported marine megafauna in the respective shutdown zone only after marine megafauna has vacated the shutdown zone or not observed for more than 20 minutes
- Marine fauna observer monitoring logged and reported to MWPA, and
- Adaptive management and reviews of management actions upon any updates to approval conditions, changes to construction activities or following any incidents or non-compliance.

4.1.5.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No nuclear actions as part of the proposed action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth Marine Area in the Study Locality.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Study Locality is not on or near the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

PMaxP is not a coal mining development or coal seam gas project.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
No	No	Commonwealth Land -
No	No	Defence - GERALDTON TRAINING DEPOT "A" Company 16th Battalion

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project Area does not encompass Commonwealth Land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas in the Study Locality.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

Yes

4.3.2 Do you have an alternative timeline you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.3 Briefly describe why an alternate timeline for your proposed action was not possible. *

The proposed action did consider alternatives. However, these are not to be considered as part of this referral.

4.3.4 Do you have an alternative location you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.5 Briefly describe why an alternative location for your proposed action was not possible. *

The proposed action did consider alternatives. However, these are not to be considered as part of this referral.

4.3.6 Do you have alternative activities you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.7 Briefly describe why an alternative activity for your proposed action was not possible. *

The proposed action did consider alternatives. However, these are not to be considered as part of this referral.

4.3.4 Alternatives: Impact and mitigation

4.3.4.1 Do these alternatives have a different impact, avoidance, or mitigation measure compared to what you have already provided? *

No

4.3.5 Alternatives: Considered alternatives

4.3.5.1 Do you have any other alternative actions, including not taking the action, that you have considered but are not proposing as part of this referral? *

Yes

4.3.5.2 Describe the details of this possible alternative that you have considered but are not proposing. *

See Section 1.2, pp4 of
Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixA1.pdf Appendix A1 of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixA2.pdf Appendix A2 of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixB.pdf Appendix B of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixC.pdf Appendix C of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixD.pdf Appendix D of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixE.pdf Appendix E of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixF.pdf Appendix F of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixG.pdf Appendix G of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#9.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixH1.pdf Appendix H1 of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#10.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixH2.pdf Appendix H2 of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#11.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixI.pdf Appendix I of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#12.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixJ.pdf Appendix J of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#13.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixK.pdf Appendix K of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#14.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PmaxP_Part1_EIA_AppendixL.pdf Appendix L of the EIA	11/04/2025	No	High
#15.	Document	Att01_675_072500_00007_R2_PMaxP_Part0_EIA_Main.pdf Environmental Impact Assessment: Port of Geraldton Maximisation Project	30/04/2025	No	High
#16.	Document	Att02_RP22055_PMAX_LUMEN_MODEL_04.jpg PMaxP concept design image 1	24/04/2025	No	High
#17.	Document	Att03_RP22055_PMAX_LUMEN_MODEL_04.jpg PMaxP concept design image 2	24/04/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att04_PMaxP_StakeholderEngagementSummaryTable_v1_20250404.docx PMaxP stakeholder engagement summary	04/04/2025	No	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation’s environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att05_MWPA_EMP_A1029805.pdf MWPA EMP 2025-2030	04/04/2025	No	High

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att06_FigA_640_30470_F028_AusSealionHaulOut.pdf Australian Sea-lion haul-out habitat (anecdotal)	04/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att07_FigB_640_30470_F042_OspreyNest_01.pdf Port of Geraldton Osprey nesting post location	04/04/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att07_FigB_640_30470_F042_OspreyNest_01.pdf Port of Geraldton Osprey nesting post location	03/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att08_675_072500_00001_R01_v0.2_PMaxP_BCHSurveyReport_240830.pdf Geraldton Port Maximisation Project: Benthic Habitat Survey Report	04/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att09_ProtectedMatters_MNES layers_March28th2025.pdf Protected Matters Tool results - March 2025	04/04/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att08_675_072500_00001_R01_v0.2_PMaxP_BCHSurveyReport_240830.pdf Geraldton Port Maximisation Project: Benthic Habitat Survey Report	03/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia Version 35 https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/media/1730/download			High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Geraldton Port Coastal Processes Analysis - Stage 1 Report: Data Review https://www.midwestports.com.au/Profiles/midwest..			High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	04/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Non-essential heavy metals and protective effects of selenium against mercury toxcitiy in endangered https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pi..			High
#3.	Link	Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at high concentrations in neonatal Australian pinnipeds https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pi..			High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	04/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att11_202501_MWPA_AustralianSeaLionManagementPlan_A223971.pdf Port of Geraldton Australian Sea-lion Management Plan	04/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Link	Geraldton port dredging project 2002-3: The issues, the events and the final outcome https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit..			High
#4.	Link				

		Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion (Neophoca cinerea) https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..		High
#5.	Link	Toxicant default guideline values for sediment quality https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines/g..		High

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025		High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025		High

4.1.5.2 (Migratory Species) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025		High
#2.	Link	Toxicant default guideline values for sediment quality https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines/g..			High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att12_PHS21038_MWP_R002_FinalSurveyReport_Rev0.pdf Geraldton Maintenance Dredging 2021: Post-dredge Survey Report	30/04/2025		High
#2.	Link				

Fishing Marine Charts Navigation https://fishing-app.gpsnauticalcharts.com/i-boat..			High
#3.	Link	Geraldton port dredging project 2002-3: The issues, the events and the final outcome https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit..	High
#4.	Link	Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds https://hanzab.birdlife.org.au/	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBC Referral SupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025	No	High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBC Referral SupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025	No	High

4.3.1.2 (Timeline) How the impacts and mitigation measures are different for your alternative timeline

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	675.072500.00007.R03.PMaxP EPBC Referral Supporting Information.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project		No	High

4.3.2.1 (Location) How the impacts and mitigation measures are different for your alternative location

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	675.072500.00007.R03.PMaxP EPBC Referral Supporting Information.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project		No	High

4.3.2.2 (Location) Public consultation in relation to the proposed alternative location

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	PMaxP Stakeholder Engagement Summary Table v1_20250404.docx PMaxP stakeholder engagement summary	03/04/2025	No	High

4.3.5.2 (Considered alternatives) Details of possible alternatives that you have considered but are not proposing

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att10_675_072500_00007_R03_PMaxP_EPBCReferralSupportingInformation.pdf EPBC Act Referral Supporting Information: Geraldton Port Maximisation Project	30/04/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	29001584612
Organisation name	SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2060 NSW
Representative's name	Dilys Zhang
Representative's job title	
Phone	0411191700
Email	dzhang@slrconsulting.com
Address	

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Dilys Zhang of SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	73384989178
Organisation name	MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY
Organisation address	6530 WA
Representative's name	Damian Tully

Representative's job title	Chief Executive Officer
Phone	(08) 9964 0520
Email	pmaxpdocuments@midwestports.com.au
Address	298 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, WA 6530

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Damian Tully of MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Damian Tully of MID WEST PORTS AUTHORITY**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☐ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *