Draft Dredging Guideline for consultation

Issued May 2020

The EPA is pleased to announce the release of the draft Dredging Guideline for consultation. This guideline aims to provide proponents with a better understanding of environmental risks associated with dredging and EPA’s expectations for managing these risks.

What the guideline includes

- Explain what is dredging
- EPA regulation of dredging
- Environmental impacts associated with dredging
- Information needed to assess dredge proposals
- Advice on dredge management plans and monitoring programs

What benefits the guideline delivers

- Considers the risk and nature of the dredge campaign for regulating dredging
- Outlines a robust and transparent assessment process for dredge proposals that is risk based including the disposal of spoil at sea
- Increase awareness of EPA expectations for managing environmental impacts from dredging
- Identifies a simplified process for routine maintenance dredge campaigns
- Outlines community engagement expectations when neighbouring work is involved

What consultation has happened so far

- Workshops with dredge licensees and key government agencies to inform the guideline content
- A reference group established (consisting of dredge licensees, councils and other government agencies) to provide early feedback
- Internal consultation within the EPA to ensure that all regulatory requirements are appropriately reflected within the guideline

Where to next

- Guideline released for external consultation for 6 weeks
- Guideline will then be packaged in a web-based user friendly format once the content is finalised
- Development and licence applications, and dredge management plans and monitoring programs will need to meet the requirements of the guideline.
- Working with existing licensees to transition into compliance with new guideline

For further information and how to make comments, please refer to the EPA website [https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/our_work/have_your_say](https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/our_work/have_your_say). Contact us: epascience@sa.gov.au