

**Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**Proposal Title:** WestAus Carnarvon Oyster Trial

**Proposal Location:** Eastern shoreline of Shark Bay in Gascoyne Region –

Within the Wooramel Special Purpose Zone of the Shark Bay Marine Reserves

**Date referral received:** 10/05/2018

**Date more information received:** 4/09/2018

**Referrer:** Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

**Proponent:** Harvest Road Export Pty Ltd

**Potential significant effects:** The proposal has the potential to impact on: **Benthic communities and habitat** from the location of cages and infrastructure; **Marine environmental quality (sediments)** from minor organic loading from culture of Oysters; and **Marine Fauna** from potential interactions with marine based infrastructure and fauna strikes with service vessels.

**Public comment on referral information:**

Do not assess: 1

Assess: a) Referral information 2

b) Environmental review - no public review 0

c) Public environmental review 4

*Total submissions:* 7

**Decision:** s. 39A – Not Assess

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act.

**Explanation of decision:**

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment because the proposal activities are temporary, the total area is small in scale (<0.6 hectares) and the 9 trial sites have been located on sandy habitat to avoid significant seagrass meadows which are important areas for fish, invertebrates and dugongs. The impacts to marine fauna are minimised through the design and construction of the longlines and management measures including limiting boat vessel speed. The trial has also been developed to gather baseline environmental information to inform the environmental assessment of a future commercial scale oyster farm on the environmental values of the Wooramel Bank. The nutrient and organic loads in sediments will be monitored as well as collecting current meter data.

The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the proponent's referral documentation, which includes a Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (4 September 2018) that sets out monitoring, management and contingency measures.

**Appeals:** This decision is appealable. Appeals close 24-09-2018. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.



**Dr Tom Hatton**

CHAIRMAN

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

**Date:** 5 Sept 2018