

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

**Proposal Title:** Onslow Seawater Desalination Plant

**Proposal Location:** Shire of Ashburton

**Case Number:** CMS 17952

**Date referral received:** 28-01-2021      **Date more information received:** 07-05-2021

**Referrer:** Water Corporation      **Proponent:** Water Corporation

**Potential significant effects:**

There are potential impacts on: Marine Environmental Quality from the release of small volumes of brine wastewater, localised impacts to Marine Fauna during construction and operation (, Flora and Vegetation from the clearing of native vegetation, Social Surroundings from indirect disturbance to sites of potential significance.

**Public comment on referral information:**

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

**Decision:** s. 39A – Not Assess

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

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment because of the minor and temporary construction impacts and the limited operational impacts. Discharge will be positioned where localised changes to temperature and salinity will not significantly impact any sensitive marine habitats. Impacts to marine fauna are highly localised and the proposal will not impact any restricted habitat for marine fauna and will avoid locally significant flora. The proponent has avoided direct impacts to sites of significance for Aboriginal heritage and will continue consultation with the relevant Aboriginal groups. 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 referral documentation and the proponent's management and mitigation measures.

The EPA notes there are other statutory processes relevant to this proposal including the clearing of native vegetation in accordance with a permit under Part V Division 2 (Clearing) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

**Appeals:** This decision is appealable. Appeals close 14-06-2021. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.



**Professor Matthew Tonts**

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

**Date: 26.5.2021**