

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

Proposal Title: Sediment Removal in the Lower Vasse River

Proposal Location: Busselton, South West Region

Case Number: CMS18073

Date referral received: 14-09-2021 **Date more information received:** 5-10-2021

Referrer: City of Busselton **Proponent:** City of Busselton

Potential significant effects:

There are potential temporary impacts to the Lower Vasse River environment (water quality and aquatic fauna) from the localised and targeted dredging activities which will be undertaken in stages. There is also the potential for temporary impacts to Aboriginal and historical heritage sites and visual amenity during the dredging.

Preliminary key environmental factors: Inland Waters, Terrestrial Fauna and Social Surroundings.

Public comment on referral information:

Do not assess:	0
Assess: a) Referral information	2
b) Environmental review - no public review	0
c) Public environmental review	0
<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.

Explanation of decision:

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment. The objective of the proposal is to improve the water quality of the Lower Vasse River. The Vasse River is considered eutrophic and subject to persistent phytoplankton blooms with the high nutrient loading in the sediment a main contributor to the poor water quality. The water quality of the Lower Vasse River is directly linked to amenity which is of high importance to the Wadandi people. Sediment removal from the river forms part of the strategic management plan of the Lower Vasse River system. Following extensive community and stakeholder engagement by the City of Busselton, the removal of sediment was identified as having high priority from all interested groups.

The EPA considers that the likely effects of this proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment. This is because the potential effects will be temporary, the footprint for the proposal is small, there will be no clearing of native vegetation and sediment removal will be targeted, localised and undertaken in stages.

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.

Appeals: *This decision is appealable. Appeals close 22-11-2021.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Tonts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 27 October 2021