



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN - OVERVIEW OF KEY OUTCOMES

ZONE 5 CHANNEL BYPASS PROJECT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pilbara Ports provides the following overview of key outcomes from stakeholder communications and engagement to support the Port of Port Hedland's Zone 5 Bypass Channel Project (**Project**).

2. OBJECTIVES

Pilbara Ports communications and engagement with stakeholders on the Project has the following objectives:

- Provide clear, timely, and accessible information to stakeholders about the purpose, scope, and timing of the new bypass channel project.
- Engage key internal and external stakeholders early in the approvals process to build understanding and maintain confidence in Pilbara Ports responsible dredging approach.
- Facilitate opportunities for stakeholders to receive briefings and ask questions ahead of key project milestones.
- Ensure feedback, concerns, or information requests from stakeholders are acknowledged within two business days and responded to within five business days.
- Support a smooth environmental approvals process by transparently communicating findings from marine investigations and management plans.

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

The key stakeholders which represent the target audience for Pilbara Ports communications and engagement on the Project include:

- Port Hedland community
- Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation
- Port Hedland Community Consultation Committee
- Port Hedland Technical Advisory and Consultative Committee
- Local and State Government agencies
 - Environment Protection Agency (**EPA**)
- Federal Government agencies
 - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**)
- Care for Hedland
- Recreational boat users
- Pilbara Ports employees
- Media

Further detail key stakeholders identified from the target audience are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Key stakeholders within target audience for Pilbara Ports communications and engagement for the Project.

AUDIENCE	INTEREST IN PROJECT
Port Hedland Community	<p>Port Hedland is a town on the Western Australia’s Pilbara region approximately 1,800 km north of Perth. It consists of the coastal townsite of Port Hedland and residential South Hedland (~15km inland), featuring a strong industrial, FIFO-influenced community with rich First Nations heritage, with arid-region living amongst unique natural, marine, and industrial landscapes. The Project is located offshore from the Port Hedland townsite near the main navigation channel and anchorages which support the Port’s operations.</p> <p>Pilbara Ports’ channel and associated berths directly contribute to the economic growth and development of the region by facilitating trade. The proposed dredging activities will not have a material impact on local community members who utilise the Port area for business/leisure, however, it’s important the community is broadly aware of the activities and potential impacts.</p>
Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC)	<p>Port Hedland is situated within the traditional Country of the Kariyarra People. KAC provides a key representative voice for the cultural interests and heritage values of Aboriginal people with connections to Kariyarra Country.</p> <p>Pilbara Ports has a First Nations Engagement team and maintains an active program of engagement and communications on Port projects and developments.</p> <p>Previous consultation with Kariyarra Traditional Owners undertaken during capital dredging and other port developments at Port Hedland has not identified any underwater archaeological heritage sites or ethnographic values within the project area. Pilbara Ports (2025) completed a desktop assessment of the potential for cultural heritage to be encountered during activities undertaken for the Project, which also concluded the current proposed program has a very low probability of encountering extant cultural heritage and is, therefore, unlikely to result in impacts to heritage sites.</p>
Port of Port Hedland Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	<p>As per the <i>Port Authorities Act 1999</i> (WA), Pilbara Ports is required to establish a CCC for each port under its control.</p> <p>The purpose is to facilitate information sharing and consultation between Pilbara Ports and the local community. The Port Hedland CCC meets twice a year.</p>
Port of Port Hedland Technical Advisory and Consultative Committee (TACC)	<p>Under the National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging (NAGD), Pilbara Ports is required to establish a TACC for each port under its control. The purpose is to facilitate information</p>

AUDIENCE	INTEREST IN PROJECT
	sharing and consultation between Pilbara Ports, port industry and the local community. The Port Hedland TACC meets twice each year and is a long-standing and well-established forum. Note that KAC is also invited to the Port Hedland TACC.

4. ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Pilbara Ports is leading communications and engagement for the application of the Zone 5 Bypass Channel Sea Dumping Permit and associated dredging activities at the Port of Port Hedland.

The engagement approach for this process aims to ensure comprehensive communication with key stakeholders via a combination of Pilbara Ports' existing channels and direct communication. Key channels for stakeholder engagement are summarised in Table 2.

Engagement strategies for each of the key stakeholder groups are described in Table 3.

Table 2: Summary of engagement and communication channels for the Project

CHANNEL	PURPOSE	TARGET AUDIENCE
Pilbara Ports website	Pilbara Ports maintains information on its existing sea dumping and a contact address for any queries or concerns they have (via the feedback@pilbaraports.com.au email which is promoted on the website).	All
Pilbara Ports social media (Facebook and YouTube)	Through regular active engagement on Pilbara Ports' social media platforms, Pilbara Ports shares milestones and creates awareness for Pilbara Ports capital and maintenance dredging activities.	All
Briefings and presentations/meetings	Briefings, presentations, and meetings will help us communicate project updates, milestones, impacts and promote open discussions and an avenue to address concerns.	As required / requested
Port of Port Hedland's CCC meetings	Pilbara Ports' Port Hedland CCC meetings are held two times annually and have been used as a forum to provide relevant project updates and facilitate direct interaction with	Port Hedland CCC members

CHANNEL	PURPOSE	TARGET AUDIENCE
	community representatives in relation to Port activities.	
Port Hedland’s TACC meetings	The Port of Port Hedland Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) meets twice yearly to facilitate stakeholder consultation and information sharing in relation to dredging and disposal activities at the Port of Port Hedland. The TACC provides a forum for discussion of proposed and ongoing works within Pilbara Ports’ shipping channels and associated berths, including matters relevant to environmental management and sea dumping activities.	Port Hedland TACC members

Table 3: Communication and Engagement Strategies and Summary of Outcomes

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER	HOW WE ENGAGE	CHANNELS & OUTCOMES
KAC	<p>Pilbara Ports’ engagement with Aboriginal people in relation to the Project is driven through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community engagement • Direct engagement via Pilbara Ports First Nations Engagement team on Project and (more generally) through Reconciliation Action Plan (available on website) • Port Hedland’s CCC (standing invitee) • Port Hedland’s TACC (standing invitee) 	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) (available here). • Port Hedland’s Community Consultative Committee (available here). • Pilbara Ports Website (available here) • Social media • Direct engagement (where requested), including port tours <p>Targeted Engagement</p> <p>A letter outlining the project was provided to KAC in September 2025. The letter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasoning behind the project • Location of proposed bypass channel (map provided) • Description of dredge design • Indicative Timeline of project <p>Pilbara Ports’ First Nations Engagement Manager and</p>

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER	HOW WE ENGAGE	CHANNELS & OUTCOMES
		<p>team maintains regular engagement with KAC. As part of this ongoing engagement, follow-up was undertaken to seek feedback on the Project. To date, no queries or concerns have been raised by KAC. Pilbara Ports will continue to engage with KAC throughout the Project.</p>
<p>Port Hedland’s CCC</p>	<p>The CCC play a crucial role in providing valuable insights and feedback on the port’s activities, including capital and maintenance dredging. We keep committee members informed by participating in meetings at least twice per year, providing comprehensive updates on port activities, projects, developments, and any relevant issues. This ensures that committee members remain engaged and informed, allowing them to fulfill their role effectively as representatives of the community.</p>	<p>Pilbara Ports hosts Port Hedland’s CCC meetings at least twice per year to discuss relevant projects with the community.</p> <p>A targeted (out of session) Community Consultation Plan was designed and implemented in December 2025. The Plan included an information leaflet outlining the key elements of the Zone 5 Bypass project. This was disseminated to the CCC members with an invitation for further discussions if members required more details. A copy of the leaflet is available in Appendix B. No queries or concerns have been raised by members of PHCCC members regarding this project to date.</p> <p>Port Hedland CCC meeting minutes are available here.</p>
<p>Port Hedland’s TACC meetings</p>	<p>The Port of Port Hedland’s Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) meets twice a year in relation to dredging and disposal activities within the Port of Port Hedland’s). This forum plays a crucial role in providing valuable insights and feedback on this aspect of the port’s activities, to industry, community, and government stakeholders. We keep committee members informed by leading and actively participating in meetings, providing comprehensive</p>	<p>Pilbara Ports hosts Port Hedland’s TACC meetings twice per year. Both meetings in 2025 included specific updates on Pilbara Ports proposed Zone 5 Bypass Channel Project.</p> <p>In June 2025 Pilbara Ports presented an overview of the proposed Zone 5 Bypass project including the location of the new channel, environmental investigations to be carried out including the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and indicative timeline to TACC</p>

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER	HOW WE ENGAGE	CHANNELS & OUTCOMES
	<p>updates on port maintenance dredging activities, projects, developments, and any relevant issues.</p>	<p>members. No concerns were raised by TACC members.</p> <p>In November 2025 Pilbara Ports gave a more detailed description of the project and updated timeline. The preliminary outcomes of the Environmental Investigations (including SAP implementation and results, benthic community and habitat survey) were also presented. Care for Hedland raised queries in relation to timing for submission of approvals and timeframe for the campaigns.</p> <p>The next TACC meeting is due to be held in Port Hedland in May 2026 and will include update on the Project and environmental approvals (including support studies). This will include an overview of the outcomes of the draft Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Project. The risk assessment framework applied to this ERA is consistent with the approach used in previous collaborative risk workshops conducted through the Port of Port Hedland, Dampier and Ashburton TACC forums. This framework has been applied to support earlier maintenance and capital dredging programs undertaken by Pilbara Ports.</p> <p>TACC meeting minutes, for the meetings held in June and November 2025, are provided in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Port of Port Hedland's community members</p>	<p>While Port Hedland's community members may have low influence, their potential impact on the project is significant, necessitating proactive communication and information sharing. The engagement approach taken is utilising social media platforms to disseminate dredging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Social media • Face-to-Face <p>Example:</p> <p>Social Media Prior to the commencement of dredging operations in the Port, Pilbara Ports will issue social</p>

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
ENGAGEMENT PLAN (ZONE 5
PROJECT) – KEY OUTCOMES**



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER	HOW WE ENGAGE	CHANNELS & OUTCOMES
	<p>updates, milestones, and relevant information, ensuring that community members are kept informed about the port activities progress and potential impacts. Direct face-to-face engagement will help address any community concerns or inquiries, cultivating transparency and inclusivity.</p>	<p>media posts to inform the community.</p> <p>Website Pilbara Ports maintains current information on its website in relation to maintenance dredging and other Port activities (e.g., marine notices, environmental management).</p>

**APPENDIX A -TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TACC)
MEETING MINUTES**

**APPENDIX B – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE OUT OF SESSION
INFORMATION LEAFLET**

APPENDIX C – INFORMATION LETTER TO KARIYARRA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION