

Mr Mark Garrahy
Manager – Environmental Approvals
BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
PO BOX 7122
PERTH WA 6850

Our Ref: A468810
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Dear Mr Garrahy

**PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
*Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**PROPOSAL: HUNT POINT MARINE PRECINCT
LOCATION: INNER HARBOUR, PORT HEDLAND
PROPONENT: BHP BILLITON IRON ORE PTY LTD
DECISION: NOT ASSESSED – PUBLIC ADVICE GIVEN**

Further to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) letter of 23 January 2012 with regard to the above proposal, the Office of the EPA (OEPA) advises that no appeals were received against the EPA's determination that your proposal should be treated as Not Assessed-Public Advice Given.

Accordingly, the OEPA provides the following advice:

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposal

That the proposal referred to the EPA and to which this advice applies is the:

- construction of a new tug harbour facility with wave walls, breakwaters, mooring pens for up to 22 tugs and tug service wharf;
- construction of new material offloading facility with roll-on/roll-off capacity;
- upgrade of the existing contractors load out facility;
- construction of a new crew transfer facility;
- construction of supporting terrestrial infrastructure; and
- includes the dredging of up to 1,720,000 cubic metres of sediments for berthing pockets and associated access channels and disposal of the material at an established spoil ground in Commonwealth waters,

as described in the proponent's referral document, *Hunt Point Marine Precinct Part IV Referral – Supporting Document* (BHP Billiton, December 2011).

1. Environmental Issues

- a. Marine water quality
- b. Benthic primary producer habitat (BPPH)

2. Advice and Recommendations regarding Environmental Issues

Based on the information provided in the proponent's referral documentation, the OEPA expects that this proposal will only cause the direct loss of some BPPH within the proposed dredging footprint. The dredging is also expected to result in mobilisation and deposition of sediment and increased turbidity in the water column within and adjacent to the port and spoil ground areas, however, these impacts are expected to be short term and localized and not result in any indirect loss of BPPH outside the proposal footprint.

To ensure no additional impacts occur to those described above, the EPA expects the construction and operation of the proposed Hunt Point Marine Precinct to be undertaken in accordance with the Dredge Management Plan (November 2011) and the standard environmental management measures that form part of the Company's ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System.

Yours sincerely



per Anthony Sutton
Director
Assessment and Compliance Division

20 February 2012