

Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary Management Strategy - Stage 2

Change to Condition relating to timing of
preparation of an Environmental Protection Policy

Report and Recommendation of the
Environmental Protection Authority

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Proposal to change Condition 7 relating to timing of preparation of the Environmental Management Plan

Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Environmental Protection Act, the Minister for the Environment has requested the Environmental Protection Authority to inquire and report on a change to Condition 3 of the Ministerial Statement, "that the proposal may be implemented" (Appendix 1). It is now proposed to extend the target date as set in Condition 3 for the preparation of a draft Environmental Protection Policy, from the 31 December, 1989 to the 4 June, 1990.

The Authority has considered this matter and notes that substantial work has already been undertaken towards the preparation of a draft. In view of this work, the Authority believes that the extension of time is acceptable.

Recommendation

The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that Condition 3 of the Minister's Statement dated 4 January, 1989 should be amended so as to delete the date 31 December, 1989 and to substitute 4 June, 1990.

Appendix 1



MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

PEEL INLET-HARVEY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - STAGE 2

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
MINISTER FOR WATERWAYS

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. The proponents shall adhere to the proposal as assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and shall fulfil the commitments made and listed in Appendix 2 of Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 363, as amended (copy of commitments attached).
2. The proponents shall develop proposals for control of phosphorus through catchment management, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority, and shall implement them as rapidly as possible so that, in conjunction with the Dawesville Channel, the following objective is met:

. the Peel-Harvey System becomes clean, healthy and resilient.

To achieve this objective, the following interim targets should be used:

- (1) annual phosphorus input to the system shall not exceed 85 tonnes in more than four years out of ten (on average) and shall not exceed 165 tonnes in more than one year out of ten (on average). [These are based on 60 and 90 percentile loads]; and
- (2) average phosphorus concentration in estuary water shall not exceed 0.2 milligrams per litre in nine years out of ten (on average).

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These target figures shall be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Authority after 3 years or sooner if environmental conditions dictate, in the light of measured performance of the System and may subsequently be varied by the Environmental Protection Authority.

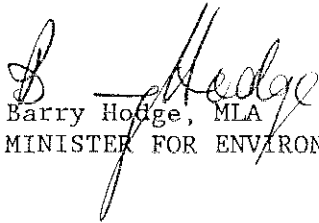
3. The proponents shall jointly prepare an Environmental Protection Policy for the Peel-Harvey catchment in consultation with such persons and agencies as Government may specify, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority, in accordance with the objective and targets specified in Condition 2 above. The target date for the Draft Policy (under Section 26 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986) is 31 December 1989.
4. The proponents shall develop in consultation with such persons and agencies as Government may specify, an integrated catchment management plan designed to meet the objective and targets specified in Condition 2 above, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority, and which shall be in accordance with the principles to be developed in the Environmental Protection Policy for the area pursuant to Condition 3. The target date for the implementation of the integrated catchment management plan shall be 31 December 1990.
5. The proponents shall ensure that the moratorium on clearing and drainage in the Peel-Harvey coastal plain catchment proposed in the Stage 2 Environmental Review and Management Programme (Commitment 3.6) continues until the Minister for Environment is satisfied that these activities would be environmentally acceptable.
6. Relevant decision-making authorities shall ensure that all developments within 2 kilometres of the Peel-Harvey Estuary System (as defined in the Estuarine and Marine Advisory Committee Report to the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Conservation and Environment Bulletin 88, March 1981.) include appropriate nutrient-attenuating waste disposal systems and management practices, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
7. Prior to construction, a dredging and spoil disposal management plan for the Dawesville Channel shall be prepared by the proponents, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. Dredging not already forming part of the proposals in the Stage 2 Environmental Review and Management Programme shall be the subject of separate assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority.
8. The proponents shall ensure that weed harvesting and control is continued and increased as necessary to manage the expected initial increase in the occurrence of nuisance macroalgae.

9. Decisions on developments which may release phosphorus or nitrogen to the environment in the Peel-Harvey Estuary area and coastal plain catchment area should be conservative until the new assimilative capacity of the Peel-Harvey Estuary System is determined and the effects of the management elements have been measured or are being managed. To this end, such proposals for development in these areas shall be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment. These developments include new and expansion of existing intensive horticultural and intensive animal industries.
10. The Peel-Harvey regional park concept, as originally proposed in the System 6 Redbook report (Conservation Reserves for Western Australia: The Darling System - System 6, Department of Conservation and Environment Report 13, Parts I and II, October 1983.) shall be implemented within such time as to be determined by the Minister for Environment.
11. If the Dawesville Channel is constructed, the proponents shall be responsible for ensuring that mosquito management is effective and is carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Health.
12. The proponents shall be jointly responsible for the environmental aspects of:
 - (1) the construction, operation, monitoring and maintenance of the Dawesville Channel and its impacts within the estuaries and within the immediate marine environment;
 - (2) the management and required monitoring of the catchment, and collection of data necessary for the development of the integrated catchment management plan for the Peel-Harvey catchment; and
 - (3) all in-estuary monitoring and management, including weed harvesting.

All of the above shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

13. Prior to the construction of the Dawesville Channel, the proponents shall prepare in stages, a monitoring and management programme, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. This programme shall include:
 - (1) essential additional baseline monitoring required to be in place as soon as possible and prior to construction commencing;

- (2) construction stage impacts and monitoring, prior to construction; and
- (3) operational and long-term monitoring, in stages, to be determined by the Environmental Protection Authority.


Barry Hodge, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT



MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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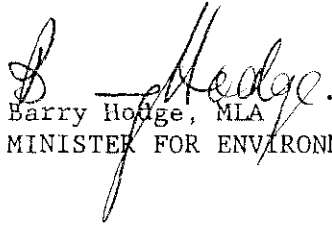
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Barry Hodge, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

- 3 JAN 1989

MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE PROPONENTS

The following list has been amended by the EPA and accepted by the proponents to reflect the 'whole of Government approach' which is essential for management of this proposal.

1. DAWESVILLE CHANNEL

- 1.1 The proponents will conduct a detailed survey to locate, assess and offer protection to Aboriginal sites and heritage.
- 1.2 During construction of the Dawesville Channel, the proponents will ensure the continuity of road access, power supply, communications, and water and sewerage services that require relocation, and will minimize dust and noise impacts upon nearby residential areas.
- 1.3 Spoil from the excavated channel will be used in redeveloping the fill areas as a stable and varied landscape, reflecting naturally occurring topography elsewhere on the coastal strip.
- 1.4 The proponents will manage spoil disposal to minimize disturbance to important land elements, including coastal dunes, tree belts along Old Coast Road and near the estuary foreshore. Spoil disposed of adjacent to the undisturbed coastal dunes will be contoured to co-ordinate with natural dune topography in order to minimize the potential for erosion.
- 1.5 The land area used to dispose of excavated material will be contoured to facilitate possible future development into a prime residential and holiday area. Views from existing residences near the estuary will be retained, taking into consideration that these views may have been ultimately reduced by foreshore development and landscaping, irrespective of the proposed channel development.
- 1.6 Littoral sand drift northwards along the ocean coast will be mechanically bypassed beyond the channel entrance, to minimize siltation within the channel and to avoid adverse effects on beaches to the north and south.
- 1.7 The Dawesville Channel will be maintained as a navigable waterway, although, as with the existing Mandurah Channel, sea conditions at the ocean entrance may frequently preclude its use by small boats.
- 1.8 The estuary will be closely monitored to evaluate the management strategy's success in reducing the algal nuisance and to enable the development of appropriate management strategies to mitigate any deleterious effects that may occur. Current and proposed future monitoring studies in the estuary are described in Section 13 of the ERMP and Section 11 of the EPA assessment report.

2. CONTROL OF WEED ACCUMULATIONS

- 2.1 Weed harvesting will be continued most likely at an increased rate, until the weed nuisance in the estuary is successfully reduced.
- 2.2 Possible methods of improving the efficiency of harvesting operations, and the possible use of algicides to control weed growth, will be evaluated by the proponents and implemented if shown to be practicable.

2.3 The Peel Inlet Management Authority will continue the existing programme of shoreline management and will rehabilitate areas where weed accumulations or harvesting operations cause excessive retreat of the shoreline.

3. CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

3.1 The proponents will continue to provide advice to farmers on fertilizer requirements, based on accurate assessment by paddock-specific soil tests.

3.2 The proponents will encourage further development and use of individual-nutrient fertilizers, and will undertake detailed investigations of ways to overcome existing economic constraints to their production and use.

3.3 The proponents will ensure that large-scale field trials are carried out to ascertain the technical and economic feasibility of converting use of sandy soils from agriculture to forestry. Private enterprise involvement in these studies will be encouraged.

3.4 The EPA and the Department of Agriculture will continue to provide advice to producers to define and implement practicable and cost-effective waste management strategies for control of point sources of phosphorus.

3.5 The Department of Agriculture will coordinate the preparation and implementation of a detailed catchment management plan aimed at reducing phosphorus losses to the estuary to less than 85 t/a in a 60 percentile year with minimal economic or social disruption to the catchment community.

3.6 The proponents will implement a moratorium on further clearing and drainage in the catchment, pending determination of the success of the catchment management plan in reducing phosphorus losses from existing cleared land.

3.7 The success of catchment management measures in reducing phosphorus losses to the estuary will be monitored by the proponents and audited by the EPA. The social and economic effects of catchment management measures upon the catchment community will be closely monitored by the proponents. Current and proposed future monitoring studies are described in Section 13 of the ERMP and in Section 11 of the EPA assessment report. The catchment management plan will be regularly reviewed by the EPA.