



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

**APPLICATION FORM FOR A PERMIT UNDER THE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (SEA DUMPING) ACT 1981
TO DISPOSE BULKY ITEMS FROM SMALL ISLANDS INTO
THE SEA**

Introduction

The purpose of this form is to enable the assessment of the need for, and potential environmental impacts of disposing of bulky items from small islands into the sea. On the basis of this assessment the Minister may grant, or refuse to grant a permit for the disposal under Section 19 of the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (the Sea Dumping Act).

The assessment is specific to bulky items primarily comprising iron, steel, concrete and similarly unharmed materials (the waste material) for which the concern is physical impact on the marine environment, and limited to those circumstances where such wastes are generated at locations, such as small islands with isolated communities, having no practicable access to disposal options other than dumping.

Under the Act, an application fee of \$5000 for bulky items must be forwarded before a permit may be issued. The application fee must be received within 30 days of the application being forwarded and no assessment will commence until such fees are received. The Minister may waive the requirement for payment of all or part of such fee where it is considered necessary or desirable to do so.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Director
Ports and Marine Section
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Further information may be obtained from the Sea Dumping Program

Ph: (02) 6274 2995

PART I – SUMMARY

Name of applicant:

Type of material requiring disposal:

Location of disposal site:

Dates of proposed disposal operations:

Permit required by:

Quantity of material to be disposed:

Length of permit applied for in this application:

Details of previous permits applied for (include dates, quantity and whether granted/refused):

PART II - APPLICANT

1.0 Identity of applicant

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Contact person:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

2.0 Identity of the owner of the material to be disposed at sea (if different to 1.0)

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

PART III – WASTE MANAGEMENT

3.0 Waste prevention audit

The waste prevention audit is a screening exercise to chart the potential impacts of a particular activity. The purpose of the audit is to investigate whether opportunities exist for waste prevention or reduction. If such opportunities exist, develop and implement a waste prevention strategy, which includes specific waste reduction targets in collaboration with relevant local and national agencies. Targets are set to address the total quantities of wastes produced.

As part of the waste prevention audit evaluate:

- the types, amounts and the physical impacts of wastes generated;
- total quantities and cumulative physical impact of each type of waste generated; and
- the feasibility of waste reduction/prevention techniques including waste minimisation.

4.0 Waste management options.

Applications to dispose of bulky items at sea shall demonstrate that consideration has been given to the following hierarchy of waste management options (which implies an order of increasing environmental impact) by taking into account the potential hazard of contaminants, and the potential impact of the bulky items on the environment in light of a comparative risk assessment:

- Re-use;
- Off-site recycling;
- Destruction of hazardous constituents;
- Treatment to reduce or remove the hazardous constituents;
- Disposal on land; and
- Disposal at sea.

In referring to the above hierarchy, demonstrate that the following considerations have been taken into account:

- planning, including safety, economic and environmental analyses;
- cleaning of the bulky items and their components including removal of all potential pollutants; and
- site clearance.

PART IV - DESCRIPTION OF DISPOSAL SITE AND PROCEDURES

5.0 Carrier of Material

5.1 Name and port of registration of vessel to be used for sea disposal.

5.2 Owner of vessel

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

5.3 Person to be in charge of disposal operation

6.0 Method and procedure of disposal

Describe proposed method of disposal at sea and planning details including:

- transport to site ;
- dump method;
- engineering/safety standards and person responsible for implementing such standards;
- contingency measures;
- assurance that the waste material will sink and that significant fragments will not be dispersed;
- prevention of movement of the waste material;
- steps taken to confirm position on the seabed after sinking of the waste material; and
- frequency of disposal and quantities per disposal.

7.0 Description of Proposed Disposal Site

7.1 Location of site

Attach a suitably scaled map of the proposed disposal site (the relevant sector from an AusMap), including a clear grid reference, showing bathymetric contours, the boundaries of the site and distance from land. Care should be taken to specify the co-ordinate system (WGS84 preferred over AGD66) and units used; eg. degrees, minutes, decimals of minutes or degrees, minutes, seconds. Does this site differ from the site used under previous permits? If so, relationship to previous site is to be indicated clearly on the map.

7.2 Position fixing

Describe method to be used in positioning the dumping vessel.

7.3 Depth of Water

- depth of water from seabed to surface water at Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT); and
- depth of water from highest point of the material to be sunk to surface water at LAT.

7.4 Indicate whether the proposed disposal site is subject to 'Marine Park' or other zoning, which may have a bearing on its intended use. Describe any sensitive areas in the vicinity of the proposed site.

7.5 Provide information on the physical and other relevant characteristics of the disposal site. Include:

- sea-bed topography;
- sediment characteristics;
- biological characteristics; and
- other relevant information.

7.6 Reasons for the selection of the site.

7.7 Describe the history of the site if previously used for sea disposal.

Describe intended program for collecting reference data on site characteristics to enable the monitoring of the consequences of the disposal operation should monitoring be required.

PART V - DESCRIPTION OF WASTE MATERIAL FOR DISPOSAL

8.0 Description and assessment of waste material proposed for disposal

Provide a comprehensive assessment of the items and their constituents including:

- type;
- composition (for example iron, steel, concrete);
- structural form;
- weight and dimensions;
- age;
- the presence of contaminants or hazardous constituents including potentially floating materials on or within the items;
- the specific gravity of the items (this should not exceed 1.2 when allowance for the ingress of water into internal and void spaces has been made to ensure that the material reaches the sea floor directly);
- history of use; and
- location where items can be inspected.

PART VI - IMPACT HYPOTHESIS

9.0 Projected Impact of Disposal

Describe the projected physical, chemical and biological impacts on the dump site and surrounding areas.

- Predict the impact of the disposal, based on what is being dumped, when disposal is taking place and disposal method;
- Delineate the area of sea bed that will be substantially impacted (the zone of impact);
- Assess the physical and ecological effects of the dumping activity, including impact on existing and adjacent habitats and biota;
- Predict fate of the waste material after dumping;
- Assess possible effects on other users of the area; and

The assessment should demonstrate that any impacts will be minimal.

Describe any intended investigations or studies of the possible impacts on the environment of the proposed action.

PART VII – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

10.0 Referring Actions Under the EPBC Act

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) requires Commonwealth assessment and approval for any action that will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. For a detailed discussion of assessment under the EPBC Act and how it interacts with the Sea Dumping Act refer to Section 1.3.2 of the National Ocean Disposal Guidelines for Dredged Materials.

Where an action includes only those activities for which approval is required under the Sea Dumping Act, the applicant is not required to separately refer that action under the EPBC Act. If a referral is required, this will be done by the determining authority as part of the assessment of the permit application.

The proponent will need to refer the proposal for a separate assessment and approval under the EPBC Act where the action also includes activities not covered by the Sea Dumping Act which may significantly impact on matters of national environmental significance.

To ensure efficient co-ordination of the assessment process, it is important that the determining authority is aware of any referrals the proponent has made under the EPBC Act. As such, it is advisable that proponents discuss proposed actions with Environment Australia and answer the following questions:

10.1 Has the proposed action been referred to the Commonwealth Environment Minister under the EPBC Act?

Yes No

10.2 Has a decision on this proposed action been reached?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide details of the decision.

PART VIII - CONSULTATION

11.0 Consultation with advisory bodies

Please consult with the Sea Dumping Program for advice on relevant stakeholders within your region and the method of consultation required.

List the organisation or interests that you have consulted with on the proposed sea disposal activity.

Attach the record of consultation to this application.