ntepa Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

DIRECTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This direction is given under regulation 40 of the Environment Protection Regulation 2020

Name of proposed action	Darwin Port Maintenance Dredging Campaign
Proponent	Landbridge Port Pty Ltd as trustee for the Landbridge Darwin Port Lessee Trust
Proposed action	The proposed action is to undertake one-off maintenance dredging activities in Darwin Harbour to remove unconsolidated sediment (e.g. clay, silt, sand) from existing berth pockets, channels and turning basin at and adjacent to: • Fort Hill Wharf on Lot 10187 Town of Darwin, and • East Arm Wharf and the Marine Supply Base (MSB) on Section 7219 Hundred of Bagot. The dredging works will be carried out using a cutter suction dredge (CSD), with spoil disposal directly into the harbour via a floating pipeline, and into existing decant ponds at East Arm Wharf. The maintenance dredging works will occur over a period of approximately 2 to 3 weeks.
Direction	The proponent is directed to provide the additional information in relation to the Referral, as detailed in **Attachment A** to ensure that the NT EPA has sufficient information to properly consider the referral and whether it is required to be made.
Submission period for additional information	The additional information must be submitted to the NT EPA within three months of the date of this Direction.
Person authorised to give direction	Paul Purdon – Executive Director Environment and Heritage, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36 of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012*
Signature	
Date of direction	13 October 2025

FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED (EP Regulation 40):

DARWIN PORT MAINTENANCE DREDGING CAMPAIGN – LANDBRIDGE PORT PTY LTD AS TRUSTEE FOR THE LANDBRIDGE DARWIN PORT LESSEE TRUST

Topic	Comment	Further Information Required
Proposal		
Scope of the proposal	The referral includes descriptions about bed levelling works but is ambiguous about: - whether bed levelling is part of the proposed action along with the dredging works - estimates of dredging and bed levelling volumes The referral report (p. 8) states that the referral is for the dredging aspects of the proposal, and the referral form states that bed levelling has been assessed separately and will be undertaken prior to dredging. The referral report describes that bed levelling will be applied to level out high spots of accumulated sediment in areas outside the Fort Hill Wharf berth pocket, and within the East Arm Wharf berth pockets, and the Marine Supply Base channel. The referral report states that bed levelling is considered small scale and likely to pose a low risk to the environment. It also acknowledges that there could be cumulative impacts from bed levelling on South Shell Island, depending on timing of other activities in the harbour. If bed levelling is not part of the proposed action referred to the NT EPA, the justification for not including it is unclear. This is important for understanding whether the	1. Clarify the scope of the proposal including the volume estimates for dredging and bed levelling (this is to be consistent across all referral documents) 2. If it is confirmed that bed levelling works are not within scope of this referral, provide clear justification why the bed levelling works that are to be undertaken as part of the maintenance dredging campaign do not have the potential to have significant impacts on the environment. This is likely to require the identification of mitigation measures to avoid potential significant impacts from the cumulative effects of bed levelling and dredging-related works in the vicinity of South Shell Island (e.g. timing related to works for the Darwin Ship Lift Project).

Topic	Comment	Further Information Required
	dredging works are part of a larger action (i.e. dredging plus bed levelling).	
Additional Information	Marine ecosystems values are known to occur, and are predicted to occur, in proximity to the proposal. Hard coral communities are known to occur at South Shell Island. Predictive modelling indicates that there is potential for seagrass, filter feeders and macroalgae to occur around South Shell Island. It is apparent from the referral document that sensitive receptors including South Shell Island will be in the zone of moderate impact and influence for both wet season and dry season dredging operations. Section 10 of the EP Act specifies that an impact of an action may be a cumulative impact and may occur over time. There are numerous dredging projects in Darwin Harbour. The dredging and bed levelling activity proposed is close to South Shell Island and has the potential to have a cumulative impact on sensitive receptors if the timing is similar to the adjacent Darwin Ship Lift. The referral recognises that there may be cumulative impacts, and states that dredging during adjacent Darwin Ship Lift dredging will be avoided as much as practicable. However, the referral omits information about how the avoidance and management of the impacts will be undertaken, and whether alternative approaches (for example extending the discharge point further from sensitive receptors to limit potential impacts) have been considered, with consideration of Part 2 Division 2 and section 42 of the EP Act.	1. Describe and explain the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed dredging and bed levelling works on the environment including the points below: Provide a schedule of works taking into consideration other current and future dredging works in Darwin Harbour. This may require consultation and collaboration with other dredging operators (e.g. Darwin Ship Lift) 2. Describe and explain how cumulative impacts to sensitive receptors, particularly in relation to South Shell Island, will be avoided or mitigated and appropriately managed including avoidance schedule of works to show (timing of dredging/bed levelling, mitigation (best practice etc.) 3. To ensure levels of turbidity and sedimentation are managed to avoid and mitigate cumulative impacts to sensitive receptors, demonstrate that: a. the dredging and bed levelling works will be conducted in accordance with best practice b. alternative disposal options have been considered including alternative methods and locations. .

Topic	Comment	Further Information Required
	Considering the location of South Shell Island and the location and timing of other current and future dredging activities (e.g. Darwin Ship Lift), material information about cumulative impacts on the environment is required for the NT EPA to properly consider the referral.	