



Office of the
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

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12 SEP 2018

Ms Susan Hull
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors
PO Box 6255
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Ms Hull

Thank you for your email of 21 August 2018 to the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts regarding future export facilities, capital dredging of ports and transshipping operations in Queensland. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Queensland Government announced its new transshipping policy on 23 August 2018. This policy will require transshipping operators to obtain an environmental authority to conduct transshipping within Queensland waters. This will allow for the detailed consideration of each transshipping proposal and the ability to regulate activities to minimise adverse impacts on the marine environment.

It is important to note that the transshipping policy does not prevent any new port development or dredging activity - the policy refers to transshipping of bulk materials in Queensland waters, and that these activities will not be allowed within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP). This policy is part of a range of measures the Queensland Government is implementing to protect our unique marine environment. Transshipping operations within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) will be allowed within the boundaries of declared ports where they fall outside of the GBRMP.

This restriction complements the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015* which confines port development in and adjoining the GBRWHA to within current port limits, as well as placing restrictions on dredging. This important legislation is protecting our precious Great Barrier Reef by concentrating port development within pre-existing areas. The transshipping policy acknowledges this existing restriction but is not otherwise concerned with port development.

The policy is careful to avoid unnecessary impacts on communities and does not limit transshipping that includes the supply of essential services to remote communities, marine emergency responses, the movement of cargo between vessels in a port, and refuelling activities.

For your information, I have attached a copy of the Queensland Government's policy.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) (formerly the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) released a draft policy for public consultation in September 2017. Submissions were invited on the draft policy over a period of four weeks. All submissions were considered in finalising the transshipping policy.

The full implementation of the policy requires amendments to the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. The preparation of the amending regulation is dependent on the passage of the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 which includes enabling provisions for the licensing of transshipping. Following passage of the Bill, the department will prepare and consult on the amendments to the regulation.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Lawrie Wade, Director, Environmental Policy and Planning of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5919 or by email at lawrie.wade@des.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Jackson

Acting Chief of Staff

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Encl. (1)

Transshipping Policy

The Queensland Government's transshipping policy forms one part of a package of measures being implemented by the government to protect the outstanding international value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that transshipping operations do not damage the Great Barrier Reef or the environmental values of the state's marine environment.

The environmental risks of transshipping are relevant to all marine environments, however, the Great Barrier Reef region ecosystems have particular values which are already experiencing multiple pressures from climate change, catchment water quality and existing port and shipping activities.

Transshipping of bulk materials will be regulated as an environmentally relevant activity (ERA) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* but transshipping that occurs partly or wholly within the waters of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will not be permitted.

Transshipping covered by this policy involves vessel to vessel transfers of bulk materials at a rate of more than 100 tonnes per day and any associated land-based operations.

The policy does not apply to activities for the supply of essential services to remote communities or to:

- refuelling activities, which are subject to existing regulation
- marine emergency response activities managed by Maritime Safety Queensland or the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- movement of cargo from one vessel to another while docked in a port.

Bulk materials are those materials, other than water, that when loaded on a vessel conform to the shape of the compartment of the vessel and do not include packaged or containerised materials.

The assessment of the transshipping ERA will be through a site-specific application process in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Existing activities will be provided a 12 month period from commencement of the ERA to transition to the new policy arrangements.

The approval of an ERA for a transshipping activity does not relieve the operator from needing to obtain all other necessary approvals under state or commonwealth legislation.