



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENT

AFFECT OF FREMANTLE PORTS – INNER HARBOUR DREDGING AND RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES ON HUMAN HEALTH

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) “the approving authority” for the Fremantle Inner Harbour Dredging and Reclamation project is responsible for overseeing conditions of compliance including a Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQMP).

The WQMP is undertaken by Oceanica on behalf of Fremantle Ports.

The Department of Health (DOH) receives WQMP reports and independently reviews water quality monitoring data against recreational water guidelines. Recreational water guidelines are designed to ensure that people can continue to safely enjoy recreational activities, including swimming, in the water.

The WQMP also requires Fremantle Ports to advise the EPA and DOH within 72 hours of notification any public health guideline values are exceeded.

To date, DOH is satisfied that water quality at sites from which samples have been taken complies with all chemical and microbiological public health recreational guideline values.

The results show that recreational activities such as swimming and diving, and the collection of fish and crustaceans in areas that may potentially be impacted by the dredging do not pose any excess risk to public health.

DOH reminds people that shellfish including oysters, mussels, clams, pipis, scallops, cockles, and razorclams should not be collected or eaten, as their safety (independent of dredging activities) can not be guaranteed.

Dredging is known to reduce water clarity as has occurred within the lower reaches of the Swan River at Preston Point - John Tonkin Park and around the port. This is aesthetic in nature and not an indication of chemical or heavy metal pollution.

Although the water is chemically and microbiologically safe for recreational activities, including swimming DOH advises people to exercise caution, especially if supervising children, when entering water that is discoloured or turbid as submerged objects may be hidden from view.

DOH will continue to monitor WQMP results and if required will provide updated advice to the public if there is any risk that public health or safety may be compromised.

