

EX-HMAS ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENTAL Q & A



Land and Property
Management Authority



What has been done to ensure the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE does not impact the environment?

A comprehensive environmental assessment has been completed which looks at all aspects of the scuttling of the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE and the long term management of the dive site. This assessment has concluded that there will be no adverse impacts on areas such as coastal processes, flora and fauna and water quality. Details of the process and a complete copy of the environmental assessment is available on the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE website: <http://www.hmasadelaide.com>

The whole process of preparing of the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE has been conducted so that there will be no pollution or adverse impact on the marine environment. This has been confirmed through the environmental studies conducted by expert consultants Worley Parsons. Preparation of the vessel has been the subject of regular inspections by the Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts and their independent expert consultants.

Is the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE environmentally safe?

Yes.

To scuttle the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE a Sea Dumping Permit is required from the federal Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). This permit is issued under the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981. It is a condition of obtaining the permit to scuttle the vessel that it be cleaned and prepared to the stringent standards as set by DEWHA.

Is there any presence of the environmentally hazardous material Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) in the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE?

PCBs on the vessel have been identified and removed for safe disposal.

Will surf conditions be impacted by the scuttling of the vessel?

No.

Potential impacts on surf conditions have been the subject of detailed consideration as part of the environmental studies.

The findings of the environmental assessment have confirmed that there will be no measurable impact on swell conditions in the surrounding area, the shoreline and sediment movement in the bay.

The concurrence of the Minister for the Environment has been provided under the Coastal Protection Act.

Who did you consult when considering the environmental impact of scuttling the vessel?

The consultation process has been extensive and included:

- A number of public and publicly advertised meetings and information sessions.
- The formal exhibition of the Plan of Management for the project, which included its own consultation process.
- Consultation with a reference panel of interested stakeholder groups throughout the preparation of both the environmental assessment and the Plan of Management. These processes included the Surfriider Foundation to ensure surfers' interests were represented.
- The presence of a project website for the past two years.



How do I know that the Environmental Assessment for the project is reliable?

The study was prepared by reputable expert consultants who are highly qualified in these fields.

The studies have been thoroughly reviewed and endorsed by representatives of the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, the Department of Industry and Investment, NSW Maritime, NSW Tourism, Gosford City Council, the University of Newcastle, The Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, The Central Coast Community Environment Network and other stakeholders including the Surfrider Foundation.

Will the sinking of the ship cause any pollution to the water?

No.

The whole process of preparation of the Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE has been conducted so that there will be no pollution to the marine environment. This has been confirmed through the environmental studies conducted by expert consultants WorleyParsons. and preparation of the ship has been the subject of regular inspections by the Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts and their independent expert consultants.

There will be extensive and on-going monitoring of the dive site to ensure the waters remain safe.

What is the risk from organic pollutants and heavy metals?

There will be no organic pollutants remaining on the ship.

The environmental studies have confirmed shown that the potential for pollution from heavy metals would be at very low levels which would be below international guidelines for sediment quality. Any heavy metals would not be soluble and are likely to be associated with paint flakes separating from the ship – as would occur with sailing vessels. Environmental studies conclude that there will not be an impact on the food chain and there is no potential for toxicity to aquatic life.

Monitoring of other military dive sounds around Australia has revealed that leaching of heavy metals is not an issue.

Background PCB

Prior to commencing the work of preparing Ex-HMAS ADELAIDE for scuttling it was identified that the hazardous material, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), potentially existed in the vessel.

Information was provided by the former owner of the vessel – Department of Defence, Royal Australian Navy - that detailed the compartment locations and typical equipment components that were suspected of containing PCB. These hazardous materials, where they exist, would be found in the electrical panels for certain communications, sensor or weapons systems.

All electrical panels and switchboards on the vessel, which have not been completely removed, have been stripped of all components and wiring. The panels that will remain in place when the vessel is scuttled are therefore an “empty shell”.

All components removed from the ship that were suspected of potentially containing PCB have been separated into sealed drums. They will be disposed of by the company currently undertaking the preparation of the ship, McMahon Services Australia, through a licensed contractor.

Following the removal of all electrical components and wiring, all electrical panels and switchboards have now been screwed, fixed or welded shut.

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