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ABSTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

Western Australian Department of Transport – Statewide Maintenance Dredging Program

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Over 30 coastal facilities and small craft waterways around the coast of Western Australia, from Esperance in the south-east to Wyndham in the far north, are managed by the Department of Transport. Navigable water depths at these sites, and of other regional channels, are managed via a program of maintenance dredging. This maintenance dredging program is central to the viability of the State's commercial fishing and marine tourism industry and the safe use of waterways by all users.

To ensure consistency of approach across the wide geographical spread and diversity of facilities, an Environment Management Framework has been developed. This Framework ensures appropriate consideration is given to the environmental, regulatory and social challenges associated with the maintenance dredging program. Through this coordinated approach the maintenance dredging works are managed as a continuous program, rather than individual campaigns. Further, the integration of environmental, technical and contract management into the program provides a firm foundation for identifying and implementing best practice methods.

This paper will give an overview of the statewide maintenance dredging program, the key challenges and issues that are typically encountered, and best practice approaches adopted to manage these challenges.

