

Dear Karri,

Thank you for your letter regarding marine pest monitoring.

HESC Project Partners take the community's concern about the threat of marine pests in the Westernport Bay area seriously. We have been and continue to take actions to address this concern.

I am writing on behalf of all project partners to address several points raised in your letter.

Marine Pest Monitoring

Kawasaki Heavy Industry (KHI) will conduct marine pest monitoring at BlueScope Jetty before the arrival of the Suiso Frontier between October 2021 and March 2022.

To this end, KHI is assessing the work required for marine pest monitoring in the area and is in preliminary discussions with a CSIRO-recommended marine monitoring company to undertake the work

As requested, a scope of work is also being developed with the marine monitoring company for ongoing monitoring for an appropriate period after the last ship departs Western Port Bay.

Ballast Water

In the pilot phase, as the amount of hydrogen to be loaded onto the ship is small, we do not anticipate that any ballast water will be released.

In the case of an emergency, a water treatment facility is installed on the ship to ensure ballast water is treated prior to being released. This treatment neutralises chlorine, which won't be released into the sea water. This will prevent the spread of foreign marine species to the Port of Hastings.

Furthermore, the Suiso Frontier will comply with the Australian Government's [Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements \(ABWMR\)](#).

The latest requirements of the *ABWMR* reflects the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention and includes new national domestic ballast water requirements to reduce the risk of spreading marine pests that have already established in Australian seas.

Complying with the *ABWMR* ensures:

- Every vessel carries a valid ballast water management plan
- All vessels must carry a valid International Ballast Water management certificate
- Vessels with a ballast water management system (BWMS) must carry a Type Approval Certificate specific to the type of Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) installed
- All vessels must maintain a complete and accurate record of all ballast water movements.

Commercial operation in Hastings

There will be no dredging of Westernport Bay for the HESC Pilot.

We have not decided a port suitable for a commercial stage HESC Project and a decision to progress to commercialisation will be made after the pilot project is completed. Whichever Port location is considered, HESC will take steps to identify and mitigate local issues, including environmental ones, by listening to local concerns and the voices of experts here and internationally.

We recognise that Westernport Bay is a precious marine habitat. We can assure you that if HESC proceeds to commercialisation the regulatory approvals process provides an integrated and transparent assessment of the proposed project and its impacts.

We have a vision for a sustainable energy future. HESC believes that as we transition to this future, clean hydrogen produced from Latrobe Valley coal with carbon capture and storage will be able to reduce significant amounts of atmospheric CO₂, meet projected hydrogen demand and maintain affordability. The critical infrastructure, sustainable jobs, and in-demand skills HESC creates are all crucial ingredients for renewable hydrogen projects.

We hope this information helps to clarify some matters and extend an invite for another virtual briefing session soon.

Kind regards,

Yuko Fukuma

Senior Staff Officer of Kawasaki Heavy Industries