



Summary of expert warnings On the proposed yannarie salt mine in exmouth gulf

"The proposal presents unacceptably high risks of environmental harm to wetland values and unacceptable levels of uncertainty in relation to long term management of bitterns. The proponent intends to refer bitterns management beyond ten years to the EPA as a separate proposal. Deferring the consideration of such important issues to the future is unacceptable given the potential serious risks to the marine environment of Exmouth Gulf from the release of bitterns, either intentionally, or as a result of natural processes."

WA Environmental Protection Authority

"...the proponents have not adequately demonstrated that the proposal can be implemented with acceptable impacts on biodiversity values. The proposal would also preclude future opportunities to conserve an outstanding area of a largely intact coastal ecosystem type with significant potential as an area for economically important nature based tourism. Based on our consideration of biodiversity conservation values and threats, the proposal should not receive environmental approval."

WA Department of Environment and Conservation

"...the revisions and best efforts of the proponent have failed to address our concerns to a satisfactory level...within the context of the great significance of the Exmouth Gulf from a fisheries and ecological perspective."

WA Department of Fisheries

"As a result of...incorrect initial assessments/assumptions (Straits Salts') ERMP has not taken into account the scientific literature relevant to the proposal, and has therefore not competently dealt with the likely impacts of the proposal on the aquatic ecosystems generally and fisheries resources of Exmouth Gulf."

Dr Jim Penn, former Head of Research, WA Department of Fisheries



“The Solar Salt Project will partly destroy the Yannarie River delta, which is a globally unique and important system, and destroy part of the proposed World Heritage site...East Exmouth Gulf will provide the first location in tropical Western Australia where a continuous fringe of mangroves will intersect the supersaline water discharge (essentially an effluent) from proposed salt ponds, and where there also is an inherent natural stratigraphy that will result in the delivery of the saline plume to the tidal flats, their benthos, and their dependent biota (such as the fishery and prawns)”.

Dr Vic Semeniuk, Wetlands expert, V&C Semeniuk Research Group

“Overall the ERMP portions on the project hydrogeology would not be considered as a satisfactorily developed analysis. It has many errors and uninterpretable items that do not give confidence in the conclusions...”

Dr Colin Walker, Environmental Hydrogeologist, Murdoch University Water and Earth Unit

“Evaporation ponds will greatly impact nearshore, tidal and supra-tidal habitats, the water table, and run-off patterns on the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf. Similar ponds have led to the death of mangrove communities at Port Headland.”

Professor Neil Loneragan, Murdoch University Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research

“... the options for final discharge of bitterns will need to be considered prior to start of project construction” and “diversion and redirection of inland storm water flows, may lead to increased degradation in these areas”.

WA Department of Industry and Resources

“The MPRA will not support the proposal until proper assessment is undertaken of the nature and distribution of the marine ecological and conservation values of the candidate marine area in the Exmouth Gulf”.

Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

“The revised proposal does not allay fears that the Yannarie Salt project poses a threat to the conservation value in the area and that environmental impacts are likely to be adverse to the current and expanding, nature based tourism industry in this area”.

Richard Muirhead, CEO, Tourism WA

“Considering the widely acknowledged biodiversity values that occur within the footprint of the proposal, and areas adjacent to this that may be affected, the Conservation Commission endorses the view that the proposal should not receive environmental approval”.

Conservation Commission of WA

“The DPI is concerned about the potential land-use conflict that will arise by allowing an extractive industry to be established in an area identified as being of high nature conservation value” and “the inadequate demonstration of the impacts of coastal processes, particularly cyclonic storm surge inundation and sea level rise, on the project area”.

WA Department of Planning and Infrastructure

