
Port of Varanus Island – Updated advice on Biofouling Management – Invasive Marine Pests

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Date of effect:	15/06/2026
Details:	Port of Varanus Island – Updated advice on Biofouling Management – Invasive Marine Pests
Former notice:	NA
Charts and publications:	NA
Further notice:	NA
Attachments:	NA

1. PURPOSE

This Marine Notice provides updated requirements for vessel biofouling management and associated risk assessment processes within the Port of Varanus Island.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 31.3.1 of the Port of Varanus Island Handbook refers to the use of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Vessel Check tool to support vessel biofouling risk assessment.

Pilbara Ports advises that the DPIRD Vessel Check tool was retired by the State Regulator in January 2025 is no longer available for use.

3. NEW REQUIREMENT

Pilbara Ports now requires that:

- All vessels engaged to undertake works on Pilbara Ports projects must comply with the:
[Introduced Marine Pest Vessel Assessment Procedure – West Pilbara](#)

This procedure establishes the current process for assessing and managing invasive marine pest risk for project vessels.

4. APPLICABILITY

This requirement applies to:

- All **non-trading and project vessels** undertaking works associated with Pilbara Ports projects within the Port of Varanus Island.

5. ONGOING REQUIREMENTS

All vessels must continue to:

- Comply with applicable Commonwealth and State legislation.
- Follow:
 - Australian biofouling and in-water cleaning requirements.
 - International Maritime Organization (IMO) biofouling guidance.
- Not undertake in-water cleaning or activities that disturb biofouling without prior approval from Pilbara Ports.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The procedure and associated assessment form are available on the Pilbara Ports website under: [Environmental guidelines and standards](#)

7. FURTHER NOTICE

- This Marine Notice provides clarification of current requirements in the absence of the DPIRD Vessel Check tool.
- Relevant sections of the Port of Varanus Island Handbook will be updated in due course.

Capt. Mike Minogue
Harbour Master