



Ms Sally Munk
Principal Planning Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

By email: sally.munk@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Munk

Thank you for giving the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) the opportunity to review documentation for the proposed Seaweed Aquaculture Lease, Disaster Bay – Eden 1 (SSD-41680467) and inviting us to provide comment on the project.

The project area is located 800m offshore from Nadgee Nature Reserve, which is land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act).

Access via Nadgee Nature Reserve

NPWS appreciates that the project has been amended to avoid commercial access through Nadgee Nature Reserve via Greenglades Road as initially proposed in the Scoping Report.

Section 9.2 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) confirms that the only requirement for entry into Nadgee Nature Reserve relates to the occasional visual observation following extreme storm events, and only when safe ocean access from Eden or Edrom is unavailable.

NPWS reiterates that no vehicles are permitted off publicly accessible designated roadways, and access to Wonboyn Beach is strictly by foot on designated pathways. Threatened shore birds' nest on these beaches so unauthorised access poses a significant concern for NPWS.

By nature of the project, it is inevitable that debris may wash up onto beaches within Nadgee Nature Reserve.

NPWS recommends

- In the event of project related debris washing ashore within Nadgee Nature Reserve, that NPWS is notified immediately, and that the proponent is responsible for prompt clean-up.

Wildlife events and marine entanglements

NPWS has a statutory responsibility for the protection, conservation and management of native wildlife, both on and off park, in NSW under the NPW Act and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act 2016). This comprises all marine animals, reptiles and birds in NSW waters which extend to 3 nautical miles (5.6km) offshore. This responsibility means that NPWS has a role in leading and managing wildlife events in NSW.

NPWS appreciates that the proponent has included an assessment of the risk to entanglement within the EIS, and accompanying mitigations as outlined in the Marine Fauna Interaction Plan (MFIP) (Appendix B1).

The MFIP makes a minor reference to the use of relevant Codes of Practice in Section 5.2 for the response procedure to handling injured wildlife. NPWS highlights that the [Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Marine Mammals](#) (DPE, 2022) and [Code of Practice for Injured and Sick Sea Turtles and Sea Snakes](#) (DPIE, 2021) will provide the most relevant guidance for any wildlife event associated with the project.

While the risk to entanglement has been addressed in the EIS, the MFIP does not include response protocols for the entanglement of large whales.

NPWS recommends

- The MFIP (Appendix B1) include a minor update in the instance where if a large whale (< 6m) is entangled in aquaculture gear, the animal will be monitored for a safe distance and NPWS will be notified immediately.
- The Emergency Response Plan (Appendix B3) include a minor update to Section 7.2 to include NPWS as a relevant authority for whale collision or interaction with gear to reflect NPWS statutory responsibility in responding to wildlife events.

If you have any further questions, please contact the NPWS Sapphire Coast Area via npws.sapphirecoast@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Chris Darlington
A/Director, South Coast Branch
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

7 May 2026