



Cabinet

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CAB Min (12) 15/8

8 MAY 2012

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Minute of Decision

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Exclusive Economic Zone Environmental Effects Regulations: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolio: Environment

On 7 May 2012, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill (the EEZ Bill) is currently before the Local Government and Environment Select Committee;
- 2 **noted** that regulations are required to give effect to the Bill once enacted;
- 3 **noted** that the Bill requires public consultation on any proposed regulations;
- 4 **noted** that the regulations will classify some activities as “permitted”, and that activities classified as “discretionary” will require a consent from the Environmental Protection Authority;
- 5 **noted** that the discussion document entitled *Managing our Oceans: A Discussion Document on the Regulations Proposed under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill* (the discussion document), attached to the paper under CAB (12) 190, contains policy proposals for:
 - 5.1 the criteria used to decide on the classification of activities;
 - 5.2 some activities to be classified as permitted, and potential conditions for these activities;
 - 5.3 methods for cost recovery for some of the Environmental Protection Authority’s functions under the Bill;
- 6 **noted** the further information tabled at Cabinet by the Minister for the Environment on the marine consenting process under the EEZ Bill;
- 7 **noted** that the discussion document needs to be released as soon as possible to ensure stakeholders and Parliament are informed of the proposals in time to assist them in making decisions;

- 8 **agreed** to the release of the discussion document, **subject to** any minor technical or editorial changes that the Minister for the Environment may approve prior to its publication;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment intends to:
- 9.1 release the discussion document in May 2012, accompanied by a media statement;
 - 9.2 release the paper under CAB (12) 190 and associated Cabinet decisions, subject to consideration of any information that would be withheld if the information had been requested under the Official Information Act 1982;
- 10 **noted** that consultation on the discussion document is planned to last for four weeks;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment intends to submit a further paper on matters to be covered in a Supplementary Order Paper to the EEZ Bill, including consideration of whether there should be an overall statutory time limit for the marine consenting process.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (12) 190; Paper tabled by the Minister for the Environment,
Further notes on the Marine Consenting Process under the EEZ Bill
