

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART III**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council@isa.org.jm.

1. Name of Working Group:

Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment

2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Australia

3. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Sections 4 of Annex IV – Environmental Impact Statement

4. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

4.5 Geological properties and habitat classification setting

Describe the nature and extent of the mineral resource and bedrock within a broader geological context. Describe the geological petrographic and geomorphological setting of the site, including high-resolution bathymetric maps and sedimentation rates, and refer to submarine features such as hydrothermal vents, seeps and seamounts. Provide a baseline description of seabed substrate composition characteristics (to benthic subsurface layers), including but not limited to specific gravity, bulk density, grain size, dissolved and particulate organic and inorganic carbon, nutrients, carbonate, physical and chemical composition of pore-water, redox regimes, and spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal (seasonal and interannual) variability in these characteristics. Substrate composition shall be described to a depth below the seafloor prescribed in the relevant Standard or Regional Environmental Management Plan.

4.6 Physical oceanographic setting

Provide a description of oceanographic aspects ~~such as~~ including but not limited to thermohaline conditions, optical properties and turbidity.

currents regime, tides, waves, turbulence, and oceanographic fronts and eddies. Seasonal variability is an important element. Detail is required on the regional setting, as well as the specific site, and should include changes in physical conditions and processes according to depth and horizontal distance from the proposed mine site (near-field, far-field).

4.7 Chemical oceanographic setting

Provide a description of water mass characteristics at the site and above the site at various depths of the water column, including the structure and development of the oxygen minimum zone in particular near the sea floor (up to 200m above bottom), that includes nutrients, particle loads, temperature and dissolved gas profiles, vent-fluid characteristics if applicable, turbidity, etc.

Provide a description of chemical oceanographic properties at the site and above the site throughout the water column, ~~that includes~~ including but not limited to nutrients, particle loads, temperature, oxygen, salinity, density, particulate and dissolved organic matter, pH, chemical composition, including concentrations of trace metals, dissolved gas profiles, depth range and characteristics of oxygen minimum zone, redox regimes, carbonate saturation, and spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal (seasonal and interannual) variability of these properties, and vent-fluid characteristics if applicable. Provide projections of how and where these aspects are likely to change over the next 50 years (or time period relevant to the contract term and subsequent Closure period.)

4.8 Seabed substrate characteristics

Provide a description of seabed substrate composition, including ~~but not limited to~~ physical and chemical properties (e.g., sediment composition, pore-water profiles, grain size, sediment mechanics, dissolved and particulate organic and inorganic carbon, nutrients, carbonate, redox regimes, and spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal (seasonal and interannual) variability in these characteristics.

4.9 Natural hazards

Provide a description ~~of~~ and trend analysis of variation related to applicable potential natural hazards for the site, including ~~but not limited to~~ volcanism, seismic activity, cyclone/hurricane ~~trends~~, tsunamis, etc.

4.10 Noise and light

Provide a description of ambient noise and light, including but not limited to light intensity, backscatter, and attenuation, and spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal (seasonal and interannual) variability in these characteristics, indicating pertinence to fauna where known, and the influence of existing Exploitation, Exploration and maritime activity.

5. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

Australia suggests that the phrase 'including but not limited to' be inserted before any lists of examples to ensure that they are not viewed as exhaustive. This is important to future-proof the regulations: it ensures that further criteria developed in the future as a result of scientific developments can be captured.