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Independent Peer Review Team statements on the Sandpiper Project Verification Programme work and the MFMR and SAIEA comments thereon

To whom it may concern

By request, in my capacity as team leader of the four-person scientific team contracted in August 2014 to evaluate the Sandpiper Project Scientific Verification Programme results, and having evaluated and/or heard the MFMR internal and SAIEA external summary reviews of the Independent Review and the specialists' responses to those reviews, I state as follows:

- the comments/suggestions made in our report published in November 2014 were immediately and adequately addressed by the specialist team so should not be considered further as issues that could have a bearing on the outcome of the formal national deliberation into the granting of a licence to proceed;
- the specialist team responses to the seemingly outstanding MFMR-raised issues and to the comments in the officially commissioned SAIEA evaluation are fair and support my belief that none of the items raised should be considered further as pre-conditions for the issue of a dredging licence in the proposed target area SP-1 of Marine Licence Area 170.

(Dr) Andrew I.L. Payne
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