

Further Assessment/Delineation

If a site is deemed to require further action following Part III of the protocol, further site delineation requirements need to be considered by the Site Professional. At the start of the protocol, it is not necessary for a site to be delineated to Tier 1 ecological screening levels because the protocol considers site specific habitat, receptors and exposure pathways which can allow the site professional to potentially exclude sites from further ecological investigation even if petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations in site media (or media on adjacent properties) exceed the Tier 1 ecological screening levels. However, if completion of Parts II and III cannot exclude the presence of habitat, receptors or operable exposure pathways, then further site characterization activities to delineate the extent of contaminant impacts above the Tier 1 ecological screening levels is considered the appropriate best management practice (BMP), consistent with Appendix 1 guidance.

Guidance for delineation to the Tier 1 ecological screening levels cited in this protocol is as follows⁸:

- Soil: At sites where terrestrial exposure pathways have the potential to be complete (*i.e.*, terrestrial receptors present in suitable habitat within the appropriate distance(s)), delineate to soil ecological screening levels (Tables 1a, 1b).
- Groundwater: At sites where groundwater pathway(s) have the potential to be complete (*i.e.*, terrestrial or aquatic receptors present within appropriate distance(s)), delineate to groundwater ecological screening levels (Tables 2 and 3).
- Surface water: At sites where surface water pathways have the potential to be complete or surface water habitat is known to be impacted above Tier 1 screening levels, delineate to surface water ecological screening levels (Table 3).
- Sediment: At sites where sediment pathways have the potential to be complete or sediment is known to be impacted above Tier 1 screening levels, delineate to sediment ecological screening levels (Table 4).

⁸ It is recommended that consultation occur with regulators if it is suspected that site petroleum hydrocarbon contamination could be resulting from more than one source or site.

