

# Maintenance Dredging Project

## Project overview

March 2019



**North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) will conduct maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point from late March until early May 2019.**

Maintenance dredging at Hay Point is critical for maintaining port infrastructure. Just like roads, shipping channels require maintenance to keep ports operating effectively.

Maintenance dredging has only been carried out twice in the past 10 years, in 2008 and 2010. In 2017, Tropical Cyclone Debbie significantly added to the accumulation of sediment within navigational areas of Hay Point.

The 40-day maintenance work will occur in the existing navigational areas. Future maintenance dredging programs are expected to be of shorter duration.

### What is maintenance dredging?

Maintenance dredging involves relocating sediment which travels along the coast and naturally accumulates over the years where our shipping operation occurs.

### How is it managed?

Activities to manage marine sediment in ports are highly regulated. Any dredging and dredged material placement is subject to detailed regulatory approval processes under international conventions, and under national and state legislation.

NQBP's assessment reports found the risks to sensitive marine environments as a result of the maintenance dredging were low.

Commonwealth permits to conduct maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point were granted to NQBP following a thorough consultation and assessment process.

The 10-year permits, issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, carry conditions that protect the marine environment. The permits allow for the long-term, sustainable management of maintenance dredging at the Port and will



**Low risk**  
to marine environments



Approximately  
**40-days**  
maintenance work



Approved  
placement area  
**6km** away from  
port operations



**Real time**  
data available  
on website

safeguard the efficient operations of one of Australia's most critical trading ports.

Environmental monitoring and management measures will be in place throughout the program to minimise the impact on the marine environment. Information is gathered from water logger sites at Round Top Island, Victor Island, Slade Island and Freshwater Point. You can access this real-time water quality information on a live dashboard on our website.

### Where is material being placed?

The built-up sediment, which comes from the sea, will be relocated at sea, 6km away from port operations. This is the Dredge Material Placement Area (DMPA) used in the past and is within defined port limits.

### Will there be any community impacts?

Maritime Safety Queensland has issued a Notice to Mariners advising that unauthorised ships are prohibited from anchoring, berthing, mooring or operating within the water declared within the approved material relocation area during the works.

The dredge vessel, as well as support vessels, have restricted manoeuvring capability. Local and visiting boaties are asked to take extra care during this time, take note of the warning flags and lights and stay well clear of these vessels. Your cooperation and understanding are appreciated.

For more about this maintenance dredging program contact: North Queensland Bulk Ports

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