

Maintenance Dredging Project

Project overview

August 2024



North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) will conduct maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point and Half Tide Tug Harbour from late August until mid-September 2024.

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

The Port of Hay Point is one of Australia's most important ports and its operations support Queenslanders through thousands of jobs and enabling tens of billions of dollars in exports.

The ~28-day maintenance work will occur in the existing navigational areas.

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 and State permits to conduct maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point and Half Tide Tug Harbour were granted to NQBP following a thorough consultation and assessment process.

The permits carry conditions that protect the marine environment and allow for the long-term, sustainable management of maintenance dredging at the Port. This will 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



Low risk to marine environments



Approximately **28-days** maintenance work



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



Real time data available on website

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 while the works are underway.

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

In addition to maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point and the Half Tide Tug Harbour, maintenance works will also occur at the Half-Tide Tug Harbour public boat ramp on behalf of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). There may be short-term temporary access restrictions at the public boat ramp while this work is underway.

Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

For more about this maintenance dredging program contact:
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