



**DATE:** 18 March 2014

## **COFFS COAST SLIPWAY CLOSING FOR SITE REMEDIATION**

The lease for Coffs Harbour slipway expires on 31 July and will not be immediately renewed as the site requires remediation.

Remediation works are required to de-contaminate the hardstand area and submerged land near the base of the slipway to meet environmental legislative requirements administered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

“Investigations undertaken by NSW Trade & Investment Crown Lands has shown that the slipway site and the submerged sediments contain contaminants and other heavy metals at levels exceeding the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines,” said Trade & Investment Crown Lands director of coastal infrastructure Stephen Wills.

“The contaminant of most concern is Tributyltin (TBT), which was used as an anti-foulant on vessels for some decades before being banned in Australia in 2008.

“The site has been leased to a number of businesses since the late 1970s and has operated continuously as a slipway for more than 40 years.

“Crown Lands is exercising appropriate diligence in taking this action.

“Initial works will focus on remediating the hardstand area by removing and disposing of the contaminated material offsite.

“The initial works are programmed for completion this year.

“Special arrangements will be made by Crown Lands with input from other government agencies and harbour users to deal with emergencies and vessels in distress.

“Once the remediation is completed future use of the slipway site will be sought via an Expression of Interest process.

“Crown Lands acknowledges the importance of slipway services at the harbour and is working with the existing operator and EPA to effectively remediate the site while minimising disruption to services.”

ENDS

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