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DREDGING TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND NAVIGATION AT BALLINA

Dredging has commenced at Ballina's boat harbour and Fishery Creek to improve access for the commercial fishing fleet and recreational vessels.

Department of Primary Industries – Lands, Group Director Infrastructure and Land Management, Stephen Wills said the \$1.5 million contract was awarded to a Yamba company, National Dredging Services, with works now underway and expected to take around 10 weeks to complete.

“About 16,000 cubic metres of material will be dredged from Ballina boat harbour which will allow the water to run out of the dredged sand,” Mr Wills said.

“Around 7,000 cubic metres of material will be dredged from Fishery Creek and pumped to the southern side of the Richmond River at Mobbs Bay for beach renourishment and bank protection.

“The beach renourishment at Mobbs Bay is also expected to benefit various endangered shore bird species that are known to the area.

“After receiving information from waterway users, bed-level surveys were conducted that identified shallow areas within the boat harbour and Fishery Creek that require maintenance dredging for safe berthing and navigation.

“The Department has increased the scale of dredging to remove almost double the amount of sediment from the boat harbour and Fishery Creek than was originally proposed.

“The extra work will ensure that water depths for safe navigation access are maintained for a much longer period and over a wider area within the boat harbour.

“The works for the boat harbour are funded under the NSW Government's Coastal Infrastructure Program which supports access to state owned maritime infrastructure.

“The works at Fishery Creek are funded through Roads and Maritime Services' Waterways Fund which supports projects that improve safety and accessibility for recreational boaters.”

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