

# Brunswick Heads maintenance dredging

August 2015

The Brunswick boat harbour and river entrance breakwalls were constructed by the State Government in the early-mid 1960's to provide safe passage and port facilities for the Brunswick commercial fishing fleet.

The harbour is owned and maintained by DPI – Lands and currently provides safe anchorage and facilities for a range of vessels such as recreational boats, charter boats and essential government services that include the NSW Police, Marine Rescue NSW and Roads and Maritime Services.

Pre-dredge investigations and stakeholder consultation for dredging at Brunswick commenced in July 2014.

A bed level survey identified that dredging could involve removing up to 1,500 cubic metres of sediment from the north-east corner of the harbour and up to 10,000 cubic metres of sand from the marked navigation channel

leading to the boat harbour and the boat ramp that services the region.

This dredging work would restore navigation depths up to three metres at low tide which would satisfy the requirements of most waterway users and boat operators.

Maintenance dredging in the Brunswick River was previously undertaken in the 1970's and again in 1994.

Since that time, the harbour and adjacent approach channels have been progressively infilling with sediments to the point where harbour and river users are raising concerns about vessel safety, access and manoeuvrability.

The NSW Government has provided \$410,000 for this maintenance dredging at Brunswick Heads through the "Dredging of Priority Waterways on the North Coast".



This program specifically provides funding to maintain navigation channels critical to the commercial operations of industry, the commercial fishing fleet and tourism charter vessels.

Dredging Solutions Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract to undertake the maintenance dredging of the Brunswick Heads boat harbour and the boat ramp approach channel within the Brunswick River and is expected to take up to 3 months to complete.

A comprehensive environmental assessment for the project has been completed and approved as part of the preparation for this project.

The dredging will remove approximately 10,000 cubic meters of clean marine sand from the Brunswick River channel and will be pumped north to New Brighton Beach where it will be used for beach re-nourishment.

Approximately 1,500 cubic meters of material will be dredged from the boat harbour and pumped into geotextile bags which will be taken to landfill.

The maintenance dredging and associated works will be supervised and undertaken by the Department of Public Works in strict accordance with a construction environmental management plan.

The requirements for the works are set out in permits issued by DPI – Marine Parks and DPI – Fisheries.

The NSW Governments \$2.5 million “Dredging of Priority Waterways on the North Coast” program focuses on work between Forster and Tweed Heads with provision of work at other locations.

## More information

For more information contact Andrew Ling (p) 02 4920 5056.

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