

Former Empire Bay Marina and Boatshed

Project Update – May 2025

Contamination testing

Over the past 6 months, we have been undertaking testing to help determine the remediation requirements for the site.

Testing was expanded due to the need to better define the area of contamination in the waterbed.

Contractor ERM has now completed a [Sediment Delineation Investigation \(SDI\) \(PDF, 3.1 MB\)](#) on the contamination results. In line with [the Detailed Site Investigation commissioned in 2021 \(PDF, 17.2 MB\)](#), the SDI found:

- Tributyltin (TBT) exceedances localised around the slipway, former boatshed and former jetties.
- Groundwater exceeded ecological screening criteria for TBT, Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) copper, lead, mercury and zinc.
- Higher PFAS levels in the Cockle Channel that are unlikely to be connected to the former boatshed site.

To protect public safety, [NSW Health recommends](#) against the use of likely contaminated groundwater for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and other domestic uses (including irrigating fruit or vegetables).

Next steps

Some additional testing of targeted sites will occur along the foreshore reserve in May. Sampling is expected to take up to 2 days and will not impact use of the wider reserve.

A Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment is also underway to determine any potential risks from the contamination.

The assessment will guide how the site will be remediated and requirements for a Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

We will share the results of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment shortly.

Boatshed memorial

Crown lands will conduct community consultation on options to memorialise the boatshed.

A development application will then be submitted to local council to gain approval for a memorial, as well as any remediation plans.

For more information, scan the QR code below.

