

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #15 – Tuesday 14 April 2026

2.00pm – 3.15pm

Chair's Summary

The TasPorts Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) is an independent advisory committee, established as a forum for engagement, consultation and collaboration. The TACC deals specifically with providing advice to TasPorts on dredging and dredge spoil disposal.

More information on the TACC may be found at on TasPorts' website:

<https://tasports.com.au/technical-advisory-consultative-committee>

The TACC held Meeting #15 on Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Participants present at the meeting were: Susan McLeod (Acting as TACC Chair), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), Terry Travers (Mersey Yacht Club), Tim Hess (SIT), Stuart Richey (SIT), Holland Turner (TasPorts), Ellie Oddie-Jones (TasPorts), Christa Capel (Era Advisory), Kelly Hunt (TarFish and recreational angler), Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts).

The purpose of this meeting was to provide the TACC with an update on the current major maintenance dredging campaign at the Port of Devonport and an overview of the water quality monitoring to date.

Meeting overview:

- **Approval of Previous Minutes & Actions:** The group approved the previous meeting minutes. Actions from last meeting included making the dredge permit and supporting documents publicly available and confirming the date for this meeting. Both actions were completed.
- **Major Maintenance Dredging Project Update:** TasPorts provided a detailed update on the dredging programme, including commencement delays, pre-start regulatory and compliance obligations and current operational status. The dredging vessel is now operating 24-hour shifts, with completion estimated for mid-June.

The seabed levelling tug arrived on 4 April 2026 and is working in conjunction with the dredging vessel.

Since commencement, the vessel had completed 105 trips, with work to date focusing on the entrance channel, channel bend, basin, and berth areas.

TasPorts is receiving reports from the vessel of the previous 24-hour period, which includes start and finish times. In addition, it is receiving updates on visual

reports of turbidity plumes, including the volume and type of material coming in and out of the vessel.

- **Stakeholder engagement & feedback:** TasPorts provided a high-level overview of stakeholder engagement activities prior to commencement of works. No formal public or stakeholder complaints or enquiries have been received to date. Updates and engagement with customers, stakeholders and community will continue as the project progresses.
- **Environmental compliance:** TasPorts outlined environmental monitoring to date, including vessel inspections, marine fauna observation protocols, and water quality monitoring at six sites. A number of factors were discussed that had led to increased required maintenance on the monitoring buoys, including biofouling issues on sensors, cable failures, and calibration schedules. TasPorts advised there had been a few turbidity spikes, which were mostly attributed to environmental conditions (wind/weather), not dredging operations. No non-compliance incidents had been reported. TasPorts provided an overview of its public dashboard, turbidity trigger levels and response protocols. In addition to the ongoing 24/7 water quality monitoring, in-situ water sampling is being completed every six weeks.
- **Scallop Survey:** TasPorts were advised that a pre-dredging scallop survey by Fishwell Consulting had been commissioned by a TACC member. The scallop survey covered 21 square kilometers between the disposal site and east towards Port Sorrell Point. The data received so far showed a large number of scallops, live and dead. A post-dredging survey will be undertaken after the completion of the current project. TasPorts requested a draft preliminary report of the survey data to be shared.
- **Data Visualisation & Public Dashboard:** There was discussion by the committee on improving the readability of available turbidity information. It was suggested data be compared with other environmental data including wind and tidal movements. It was also suggested TasPorts could produce an explanatory video for the environmental monitoring data. TasPorts advised it will consider further enhancements for public understanding.
- **General Business & Next Steps:** TasPorts extended an invitation to TACC members to tour the dredge hopper – *Albatros*. The group agreed to fortnightly project updates via memo and scheduled the next meeting for early June, aiming for a presentation from the contractor Dutch Dredging Australia.