

PORT OF BELL BAY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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TasPorts acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, sea and waterways surrounding the Port of Bell Bay, the Leterremairrener clan. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and to the aboriginal community who continue to care for country.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (TasPorts) is a state-owned company and is the owner and operator of a number of ports in Tasmania, including the Port of Bell Bay.

TasPorts was established pursuant to the Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005 (the Act) and is 100% owned by the Tasmanian Government.

The Act states that TasPorts' principal objectives are to:

- facilitate trade for the benefit of Tasmanians; and
- operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice.

The Port of Bell Bay is a key import and export terminal for bulk cargo in Tasmania, and planning is underway to accommodate renewable energy enterprises.

Also a major cargo port, each year between three to four million tonnes of freight are transited through the port.



2. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

TasPorts is committed to continual improvement of environmental performance through the implementation of an Environmental Management System.

The objectives of the TasPorts Environment Management System (EMS) are to:

- outline how TasPorts identifies and manages the risks and opportunities associated with the delivering its services and activities to minimise impacts to the surrounding environment and cultural heritage assets of its ports;
- provide an overview of the significant environmental aspects, risks and outline the key treatment plans that will address these risks;
- outline TasPorts environmental objectives and improvement planning processes;
- outline how TasPorts identifies, fulfils and reports on its legal and other requirements; and
- provide a framework for ensuring TasPorts environmental performance is continually and systematically improved.

This document includes information needed to manage environmental risks at the Port of Bell Bay and outlines performance objectives and plans for improvement.

This EMP also addresses the **EcoPorts** Port Environmental Review System (PERS) and EcoPorts Environmental Report requirements and is published very two years.

EcoPorts is an international port specific environmental management standard that enables benchmarking with other ports around the world (**EcoPorts 2022 Report**).

The EcoPorts PERS assists ports with developing and implementing an environmental management program that aligns with European Sea Ports Organisations (ESPO) and ISO 14001, the international standard for Environmental Management Systems.

3. POLICY STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

The Port of Bell Bay operates under **TasPorts Health Safety and Environmental (HSE) Policy and Sustainability Policy** which expresses our commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance.

The HSE Policy in **Figure 1** and Sustainability Policy in **Figure 2**, are endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and apply to all TasPorts employees, contractors, tenants and visitors.

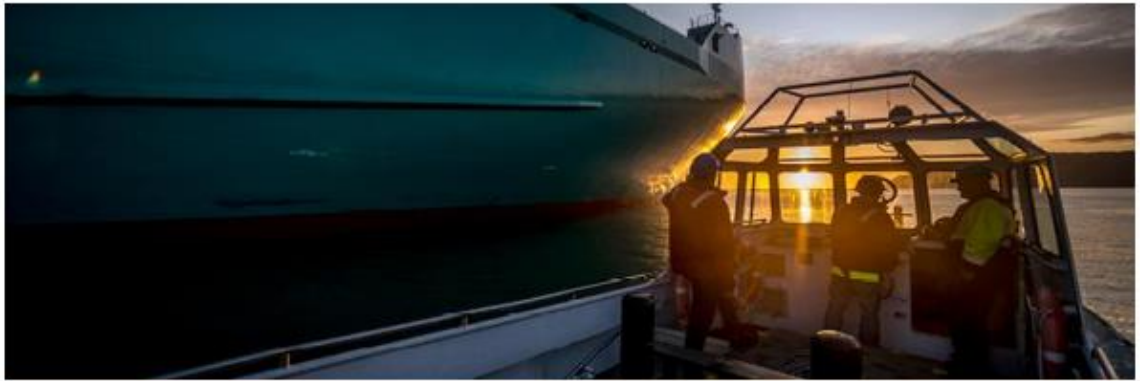
TasPorts is committed to making information on its environmental programs available to the public through published reports.

Environmental objectives are developed to address each port's environmental priorities and significant environmental aspects. **Table 1** presents an overview of environmental objectives relating to the Port of Bell Bay's significant environmental aspects.

The Port of Bell Bay's detailed targets and initiatives for improvement are documented in **Section 8** – Environmental Improvement Plan FY24-26.



Figure 1: TasPorts Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Policy



Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Policy

PURPOSE
TasPorts is committed to conducting our business activities in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and protecting the health and safety of employees and others affected by our operations.

- OUR VALUES**
-  **PROUD**
Proud to play our part, we follow through with courage and conviction.
 -  **CARE**
To show care, we actively engage and listen.
 -  **TOGETHER**
We don't go it alone, because we're better together.
 -  **SHARE**
Information empowers, so we share it generously.
 -  **TRUST**
We trust our people and processes, to deliver with integrity.

TasPorts ensures the safe control and security of all major ports and delivers critical pilotage services as well as provision of towage, slipway and refuelling facilities, supply of floating plant and equipment for marine engineering projects, and construction and coastal haulage.

We believe sustainability is a whole-of-business concept and we have a shared vision to connect people, products and solutions, for the benefit of all Tasmanians. To achieve this, TasPorts will take all reasonable care and practicable steps to:

- a) Achieve a fit for purpose risk and compliance program and management system, which enables us to meet our regulatory and community obligations and a best practice standard that is appropriately resourced with competent staff.
- b) Provide appropriate resources, plant, equipment, information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure the effective management of health, safety and environment risks.
- c) Develop a culture that promotes a positive informed attitude towards mental health with a focus on prevention, early identification and intervention strategies that support recovery and that encourage people to feel safe and supported to disclose mental health issues.
- d) Prevent environmental harm occurring as a result of activities occurring on TasPorts property and to conduct our activities in a manner that aligns with the EcoPorts environmental initiative.
- e) Enhance communication and engagement related to safety and environmental protection through a commitment to consult with internal and external stakeholders including the communities we operate in and workers representatives to seek improved HSE outcomes.
- f) Identify foreseeable safety and environmental hazards, conduct risk assessments and eliminate or control hazards for injury prevention, health preservation and environmental protection.
- g) Establish measurable HSE objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement aimed at elimination of work-related injury and illness and the reduction of our operation's impact on the environment including resource reduction.

This HSE policy guides TasPorts safety and environmental compliance programs which are integrated with TasPorts vision, corporate intentions, values, business objectives and other TasPorts policies and procedures.

TasPorts is a state-owned company responsible for eleven ports and Devonport Airport. TasPorts runs a diverse range of operations around the state with the purpose of facilitating trade for the benefit of Tasmania, through the commercial provision of infrastructure and services. The company also maintains community-use waterfront assets at Inspection Head, King Island, Stanley, Strahan and Sullivans Cove.

TasPorts is committed to developing and fostering a strong and positive safety culture. This includes promoting an environment of fairness, openness and trust by making staff feel confident to speak up when things go wrong, without fear of blame or reprisal.

This HSE policy applies to all TasPorts employees, contractors, tenants, visitors and volunteers or those who may be affected by the conduct of our operations. Any person attending a TasPorts site or conducting business on behalf of TasPorts must, if a task cannot be carried out safely, stop work. TasPorts supports work being stopped, reported and working together to make it safe before continuing.



Anthony Donald
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 6 October 2021
Version: 3



Figure 2: TasPorts Sustainability Policy



TasPorts Sustainability Policy

PURPOSE

TasPorts commitments to sustainability are aligned to our Values, the World Ports Sustainability Program and the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

OUR VALUES



PROUD

Proud to play our part, we follow through with courage and conviction.



CARE

To show care, we actively engage and listen.



TOGETHER

We don't go it alone, because we're better together.



SHARE

Information empowers, so we share it generously.



TRUST

We trust our people and processes, to deliver with integrity.

OUR COMMITMENTS

ENVIRONMENT

- Contributing to a circular economy through reuse, leasing, repairing and recycling.
- Identifying opportunities to reduce lifecycle environmental impacts in procurement and business decisions.
- Obtaining EcoPorts certification for our major port operations.
- Protecting and restoring habitat and ecosystems in port waters and landside areas.
- Reducing marine pollution and eliminating litter within TasPorts' control.
- Reducing consumption of resources and waste and improving operational efficiencies.

PEOPLE

- Demonstrating best practice safety, wellbeing and psychological health and safety initiatives.
- Always striving to improve the safety, wellbeing and security of all port users.
- Creating a diverse and inclusive culture and work environment in which our people can do their best work.
- Requiring transparency of sustainability performance in our supply chains and assessing standards prior to making decisions.
- Working to eliminate modern slavery practices in our operations and supply chains.

COMMUNITY

- Benchmarking and providing public reports on sustainability performance.
- Collaborating and creating partnerships with the community and stakeholders to return shared value.
- Developing service standards and applying the highest standard of ethics and integrity to every engagement.
- Increasing the organisation's knowledge, understanding and protection of aboriginal heritage and values.
- Supporting Tasmanian producers, suppliers and service providers.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Adopting long-term infrastructure, asset and service plans to enhance economic efficiency and prosperity.
- Adopting low carbon, smart and resource efficient technologies.
- Participating in the transition to electric vehicles, renewable energy and alternative fuels.
- Supporting new innovative industries, smart information solutions and trade developments to improve Tasmania's economic growth.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

- Assessing climate-related risks, implementing adaptation responses and improving infrastructure resilience.
- Assessing embodied energy, carbon costs and emissions in capital expenditure and procurement decisions
- Considering carbon offsets and scope 3 emission reduction initiatives (shore power) as part of TasPorts' carbon reduction plans.
- Developing and implementing plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040.
- Investigating and implementing a shadow price of carbon for decision making.
- Reporting third-party verified TasPorts Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.

At TasPorts it is our goal to ensure that our daily operations, plans for growth and decision-making are conducted in a manner that enhances future economic, social and environmental value and will not compromise it.

Everyone at TasPorts commits to embedding the following sustainability principles and actions into all aspects of our organisation and operations.

Anthony Donald

Chief Executive Officer

Date: April 2024

Version: 1



Table 1: Port of Bell Bay significant environmental aspects and improvement plan objectives

Significant environmental aspect	Objective from Environmental Improvement Plan (Section 8)
Air emissions	Air emissions – Dust and air emissions from port does not adversely impact community amenity or disrupt other port activities
Energy and Climate	Energy and climate – Take clear and decisive action in relation to climate change and achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2040
Fire fighting foam containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat
Habitat disturbance	Land and Wildlife - Minimise impacts and seek opportunities to enhance marine habitat, flora and fauna
Invasive species	Biosecurity - Ensure that TasPorts staff take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risk.
Marine discharges – ballast	Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat
Noise emissions	Noise – Minimise impacts to the community from port related noise emissions
Release contaminants	Materials and Waste - 100% compliance with waste regulations and active minimisation of waste volumes. No adverse impact from activities on TasPorts land from existing contaminated soils and sediment Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat
Regulatory compliance	Environmental Management System – To develop ISO14001 aligned Environmental Management Systems and obtain EcoPorts Certification Materials and Waste - 100% compliance with waste regulations and active minimisation of waste volumes
Sediment disturbance	Materials and Waste No adverse impact from activities on TasPorts land from existing contaminated soils and sediment
Spills – hydrocarbons, hazardous materials	Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat
Waste management	Materials and Waste - 100% compliance with waste regulations and active minimisation of waste volumes. Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat
Wildlife interactions	Land and Wildlife - Minimise impacts and seek opportunities to enhance marine habitat, flora and fauna

4. PORT PROFILE

4.1 PORT LOCATION AND PORT AREA

The Port of Bell Bay is located in the lower reaches of the Tamar Estuary in Northern Tasmania.

The Port of Bell Bay is one of four commercial ports in Tasmania. The port is located on the eastern shore of the Tamar Estuary, 48 kilometres north of Launceston, near George Town and is adjacent to a major industrial precinct.

Bell Bay is a major port for domestic and international bulk goods, as well as container services.

The port is comprised of:

- The main Bell Bay port area, located on a thin strip of land backed by a 30-40 metre high cliff extending from the slip at the eastern boundary through to the reclamation area at the western boundary, and including Berths 2 to 7.
- Parcels of land within the Bell Bay industrial zone on top of the escarpment immediately north of the port.

See **Figure 3**

Figure 3 - Port of Bell Bay layout of berth and infrastructure



- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | No 1 Berth |
| 2 | No 2 Berth |
| 3 | No 3 Berth |
| 4 | No 4 Berth |
| 5 | No 5 Berth |
| 6 | No 6 Berth |
| 7 | No 7 Berth |
| 1 | Liberty Bell Bay |
| 2 | Sims Metal |
| 3 | Midway |
| 4 | United Terminals |
| 5 | Log storage |
| 6 | Bell Bay Aluminium |
| 7 | Artec |
| 8 | Smart Fibre |
| 9 | TasPorts / Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone Office |
| 10 | Industrial developed land |
| 11 | Georgetown Waste Water Treatment Plant |

In addition to the Port of Bell Bay, TasPorts owns and maintains the following facilities also located in the lower region of the Tamar Estuary, see **Figure 4**.

- Inspection head community port at Beauty Point, on the western side of the Tamar Estuary
- Pilot launch and breakwater at the Low Head Pilot Station
- Long Reach berths
- Garden Island

Figure 4 -The Tamar Estuary showing the location of the Port of Bell Bay, Garden Island, Inspection Head and Long Reach berths



Tug boats servicing the port are berthed at Inspection Head, while the pilot launch is based at the Low Head Pilot Station. Inspection Head is also used by cruise ships.

At Long Reach, the southern berth is used for woodchip export, while the northern berth is not currently used.



4.2 PORT MASTER PLAN

In 2018 TasPorts released its **Port Master Plan** to guide a coordinated, state-wide vision for the future of Tasmania's multi-port system.

Development at the Port of Bell Bay includes improving berthing to optimise port facilities for industry, enable forestry and mining exports from multiple berths, replacement of overhead power lines, fuel pipelines, increased capacity for fuel storage and a new transport and wash-down system to assist forestry exports.

This project presents many opportunities to improve environmental standards and performance of the port.

4.3 MAIN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

TasPorts has a level of environmental responsibility and control for activities where a commercial arrangement exists as well as activities undertaken under direct operational control of TasPorts.

The port precinct services the export of logs, woodchips and metals, the import of build hydrocarbons and the import / export of containerised freight and dry bulk materials.

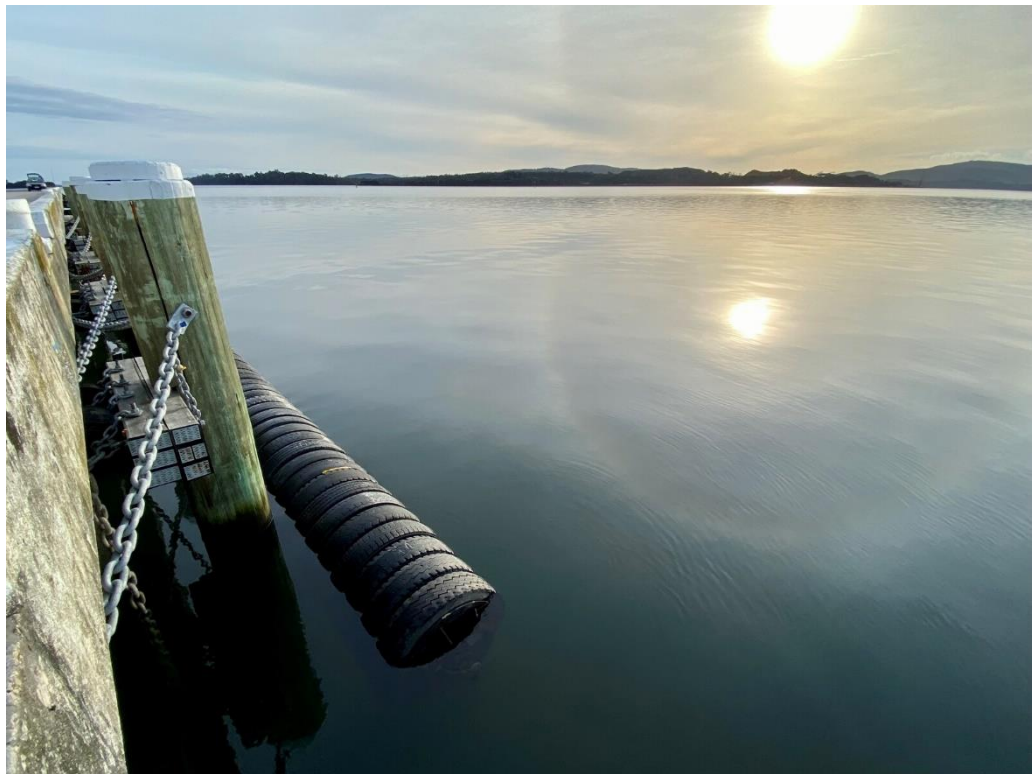
Commercial fishing vessels, vessels servicing the Bass Strait Islands and cruise ships also use the port. A list of berth operations can be found in **Table 2**, and a list of activities undertaken within the port in **Table 3**.

Table 2 - Summary of berth operations

Berth	Operation
Berth No 1	Owned and operated by Bell Bay Aluminium for the import of raw materials
Berth No 2	Interstate and Bass Strait Island roll-on-roll-off (RORO) berth – general cargo Commercial fishing vessels and tugs Vehicle maintenance and wash-down area
Berth No 3	Bulk materials berth – Liberty Bell Bay Manganese Ore / Alloy related
Berth No 4	Tankers – Bulk hydrocarbon products
Berth No 5	Containers and bulk materials
Berth No 6	Multi-purpose – bulk materials, woodchips and containers Cruise ships
Berth No 7	Commercial fishing vessels General users
Bell Bay Area 7	Woodchip stockpiling
Bell Bay Area 8	Lay down area
Slip	TasPorts boat repair and maintenance
Inspection Head	Tug boat, cruise ships, commercial fishing vessels and Navy
Long Reach Berth (South)	Woodchips
Low Head Pilot Station	TasPorts pilot launch vessels

Table 3 - Activities undertaken at the Port of Bell Bay

Activities under TasPorts operational control	Activities at the port (commercial arrangements)
Berthing arrangements	Agricultural exports and processing
Landside operations	Bulk commodities export and imports
Maintenance of infrastructure, berths and slipway	Chemical and fertiliser imports
Maintenance workshop and storage yard	Commercial fishing
Marine regulatory services	Cruise ships Tourism vessels
Marine services	Hydrocarbon unloading and loading
Pilot services	Vessel maintenance and repairs
Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)	General container freight
	Vessel refuelling
	Stevedoring



4.4 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Port of Bell Bay is within the George Town municipality and is part of the Bell Bay Industrial Precinct.

The Port of Bell Bay is the largest industrial precinct in Tasmania, responsible for almost 60 per cent of Tasmania's manufactured exports.

The precinct is home to a large range of industries, including timber processing, metal smelting, power generation and bulk fuel storage. TasRail's rail network also services the precinct, however the line to the port has been decommissioned.

Several aquaculture and aquarium facilities exist within the vicinity of the port. A salmon farm is located upstream and an abalone farm at Garden Island between the port and Low Head.

The Inspection Head community port has several tourism businesses located on the wharf, including an aquarium and aquaculture facility involved in the production of various species of seahorse and breeding of several endangered species.

The closest residential areas and/or residents to the Port of Bell Bay are detailed in [Figure 5](#).

Figure 5 – Closest residents to the Port of Bell Bay



Key port stakeholders and methods of engagement are summarised in **Table 4**. The specific needs and expectations of TasPorts key stakeholders are detailed in TasPorts' EMS Framework.

Table 4 - Port stakeholders

Stakeholder groups	Key stakeholders	Engagement methodology
Port users	United Petroleum, Reliance Forest Fibre, Artec, Midway, Liberty Steel, Bell Bay Aluminium, Qube Ports, Forico, Tug companies	Internal and external media On-site operations staff Environmental verifications
Recreational water users	Tamar Sea Rescue (Inspection Head)	Internal and external media On-site operations staff
Commercial aquaculture	George Town Council, West Tamar Council	Internal and external media On-site operations staff
General public	George Town Council, West Tamar Council	Internal and external media On-site operations staff
Seafarers	Mission to Seafarers	External media
Nearby businesses	Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone (BBAMZ), Resources Australasia, Coffey Construction, Skretting (fish meal), SeaRoad, Wharf Café, Monsons Shipping, Biosecurity Tasmania, Wilhelmsen Shipping, SIMS Metals, ABC Abrasive Blasting Cleaning, Caltex	Internal and external media On-site operations staff Environmental verification

4.5 PORT HISTORY

The Port of Bell Bay is located on the traditional lands of the Leterremairrener clan. The port is located on the north eastern bank of the Tamar Estuary, 48 kilometres from Launceston.

A port at Bell Bay was first established in 1954 with the construction of Berth 1 to serve the Comalco Aluminium smelter and Berth 4 to receive bulk liquids. Bell Bay provided an all-weather deep-water port for large vessels while Tasmania's hydroelectric system attracted large energy intensive industries to the area.

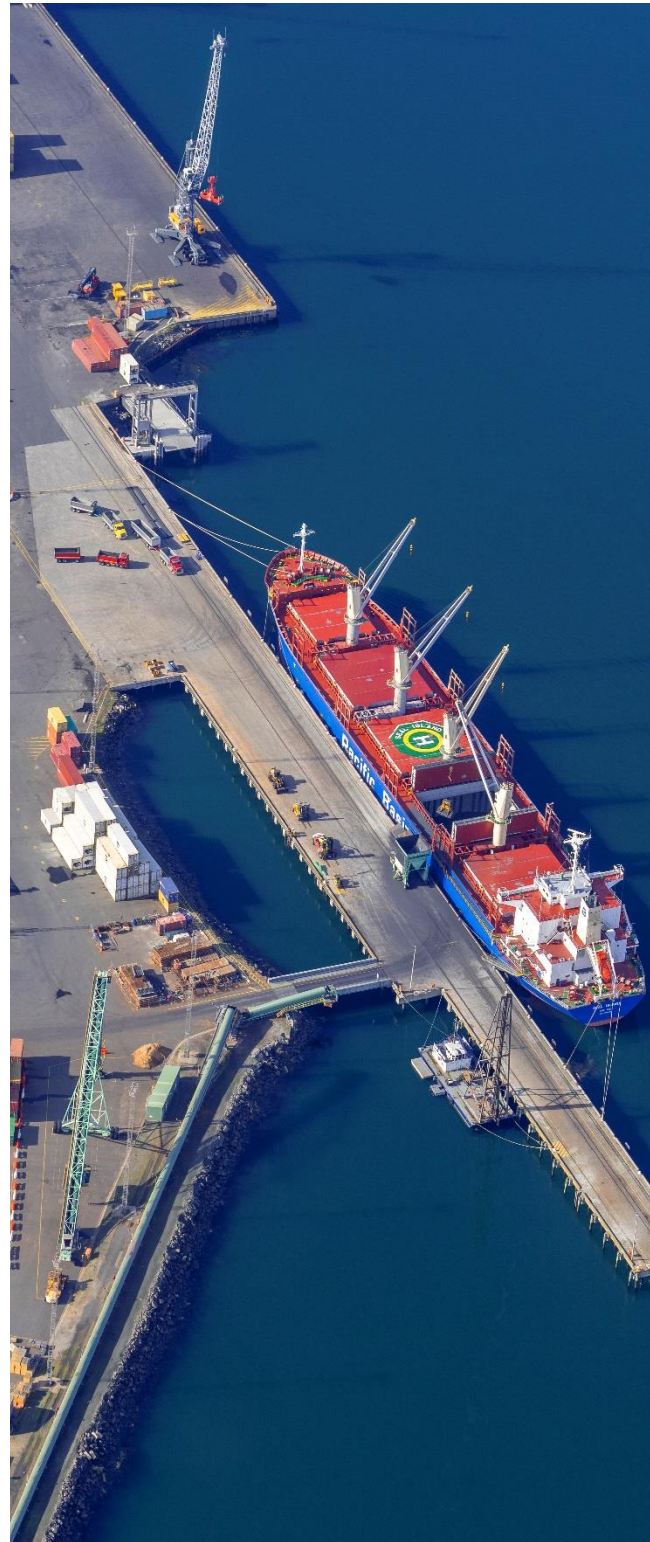
By the 1960's, following the construction of the Port at Bell Bay and a rail link to Launceston, the bulk of all vessels and freight moved from the port at Launceston to Bell Bay

The port is now adjacent to Tasmania's largest industrial precinct and is a major port for domestic and international bulk goods and container services.

The most significant environmental incident associated with the Port of Bell Bay occurred in 1995 with the grounding of the bulk carrier vessel *Iron Baron* on Hebe Reef at the entrance to the Tamar Estuary. As a result of grounding, the vessel was severely damaged and 325 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and diesel oil escaped to the environment.

By the late 1990s, in Tasmania all of the Marine Boards had been replaced by Port Authorities. On 01 January 2006, the Port of Bell Bay amalgamated with the other regional port authorities to form TasPorts.

An Aboriginal midden site is present at Garden Island located across the estuary from the Port of Bell Bay. There are no heritage-listed buildings at any of the TasPorts facilities and the closest is approximately 3.5 kilometres away in George Town.

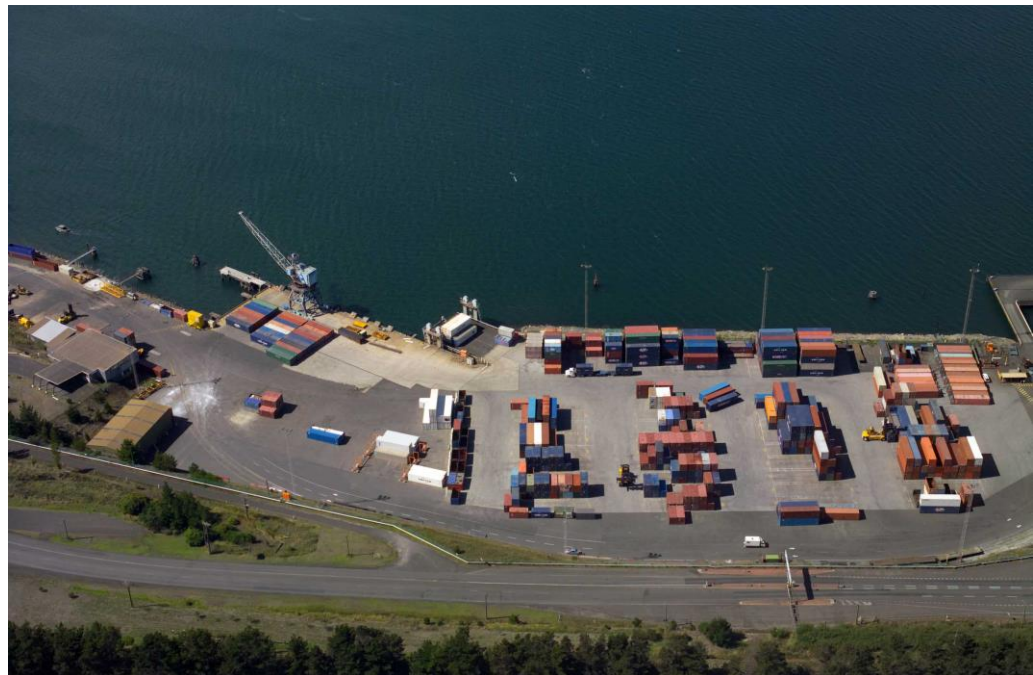


4.6 PORT STATISTICS

Freight resources and waste statistics for the Port of Bell Bay landside operations from FY23 are presented in [Table 5](#).

Table 5 - Port of Bell Bay Freight, Resource and Water statistics

Attribute	Bell Bay total	% of TasPorts total
Import Freight (tonnes)	1 256 544	23%
Export Freight (tonnes)	2 298 031	26%
No. vessel visits	233	8.8%
Water Use (kL)	25,735	13%
Diesel Use (L)	11,271	8%
Electricity Use (kWh)	1,244,623	10%
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (t CO2e-)	237	3%
Waste to Landfill (tonnes) <i>2023 calendar year</i>	34	9.3%
Waste Recovery (tonnes) <i>2023 calendar year</i>	0	0%



4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND VALUES

A summary of Port of Bell Bay site environmental conditions, environmental values and key methods of management are provided below.

Environmentally sensitive receptors relative to the port are contained in Appendix B.

4.7.1 WATER QUALITY

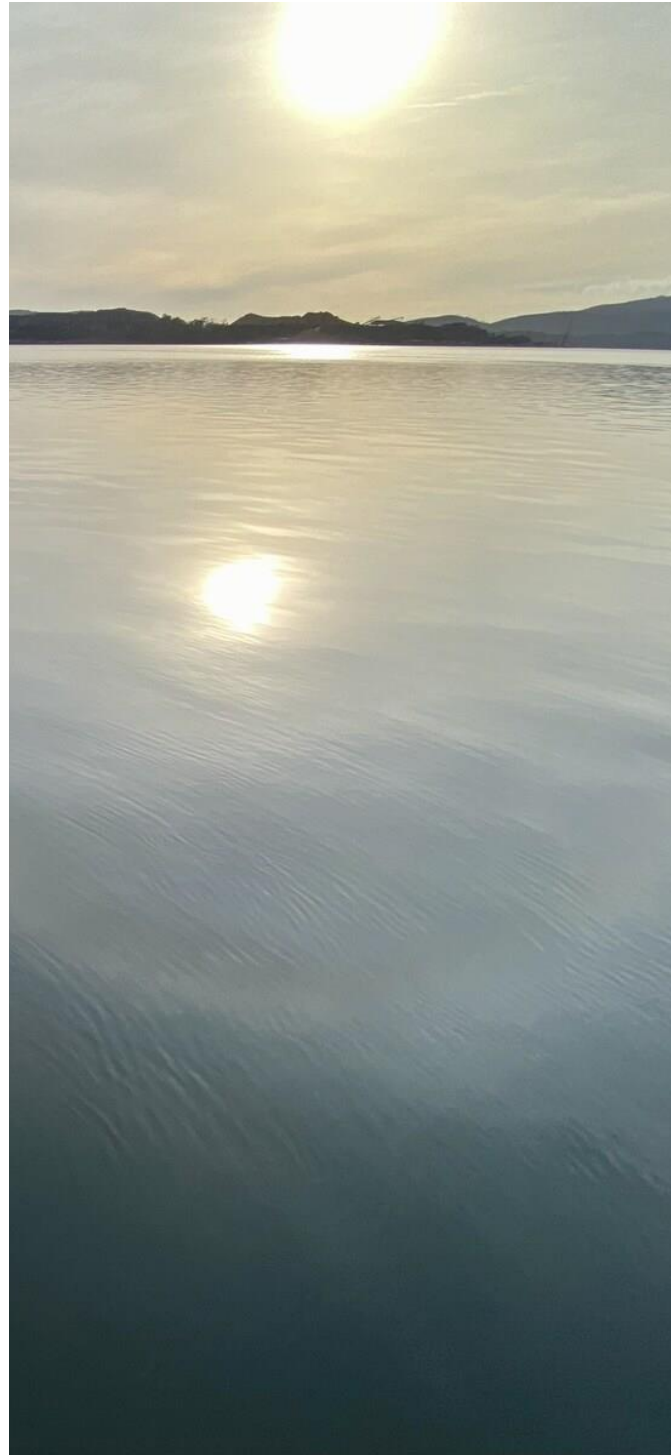
The Port of Bell Bay in the lower Tamar Estuary, one of Tasmania's larger estuaries with narrow well-defined channels bordered by shallow tidal flats, draining the largest catchment in Tasmania¹.

The Tamar is the largest navigable estuary in Australia, and the Port of Bell Bay is subject to both marine and freshwater influences.

Water quality monitoring by the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program indicates good to excellent ecosystem health in the Bell Bay region, with conditions almost always falling within quality guidelines².

Several aquaculture and aquarium facilities exist in the same region as the Port of Bell Bay. The operations of these facilities depend on good water quality.

TasPorts routinely visually inspects port waters and undertakes water quality monitoring and assessments.



¹ Natural history and values of the kanamaluha / Tamar estuary fact sheet, TEER, July 2022

² [Tamar Estuary Report Cards — Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program \(teer.org.au\)](https://teer.org.au)

4.7.2 FISHING AND RECREATION

The Tamar Estuary has a rich and varied fishery, with a wide array of species available to the recreational angler³.

A number of migratory fish species travel the estuary, including several species of whitebait (*Galaxiid*), the threatened Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*), the endangered Tasmanian mudfish (*Neochanna cleaver*), and the short-fin eel (*Anguilla australis*).

The estuary has deep channels with strong currents and tidal flows into Bass Strait that support fish habitats including sponge gardens, seagrasses, mud and sand flats and spectacular rocky reefs.

The Tamar Valley Yacht Club operates from Beauty Point, downstream of Bell Bay.

4.7.3 MARINE HABITAT

TasPorts undertakes five-yearly assessments of marine habitat around the major ports, with the most recent collection of environmental data for port waters occurring over 2023/2024.

Saltmarshes, seagrass and epiphytes in the lower estuary represent good condition marine habitat. Saltmarshes and seagrass are found at numerous locations, as are wetlands and conservation areas.

Giant kelp is present in the inter and sub tidal zones of the lower Tamar Estuary from the Low Head breakwater to north-west of the Low Head lighthouse.

4.7.4 MARINE SEDIMENT

TasPorts is currently collecting environmental data on marine sediments in the port with the final report due later in 2024.

4.7.5 MARINE WILDLIFE

Observations of marine wildlife in the Port of Bell Bay are common.

The primary potential impact on marine mammals, such as seals, dolphins or whales is injury from direct contact with or underwater noise from vessels.

Notable wildlife for protection include the Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) which is listed as vulnerable by both State and Federal legislation. Migrating juveniles move through port waters between mid-September

until December, when the estuary is below flood levels.

All areas of the Tamar Estuary are included in a Protected Shark Refuge Area⁴. This recognises the importance of the estuary as a breeding and nursery habitat for school and gummy sharks, skates and rays, it also prohibits the taking of any of these species from the estuary.

Southern Right Whales (*Eubalaena australis*), Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeaealiae*), and Blue Whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), listed in EPBC Act and Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 have the potential to be present within five kilometres of the port. There have been sightings of Humpback Whales within five kilometres, but no confirmed sightings of Blue Whales.

Sub-Antarctic Fur Seals (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*) are commonly observed in the port waters and around berths (Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Sub-Antarctic Fur Seals are often found around the Port of Bell Bay



The lower Tamar, between the port and Low Head, is home to large numbers of endemic marine species not found elsewhere, including seahorses, sponges and soft corals. Highly productive kelp forests near the mouth of the estuary provide important habitat for these species.

Seals, dolphins, whales, sharks and stingrays are regularly sighted in the lower Tamar, and a Little Penguin colony is at Low Head.

³ [Tamar Estuary RecFishing_A4TearoffPad.pdf](#)

⁴ Protected areas and species of the Tamar estuary fact sheet, TEER, July 2022

Eight threatened and protected species, one conservation dependent species, such as the Blue Warehou (*Seriolella brama*), and one threatened ecological community, the Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) marine forests of South East Australia are identified as known or likely to occur in the area of the port.

All, excluding the ecological community, are highly transitory species, including the Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*), Great White Shark (*Caracharodon Carcharias*), Southern Right Whale (*Eubalaena australis*), Blue Whale (*Chelonia mydas*), and Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*).

An additional three migratory marine species and 33 listed species of conservation significance were identified as potentially occurring within five-kilometres of the port.

4.7.6 INTRODUCED MARINE SPECIES

There are a number of marine pests known to be in the Tamar Estuary, including:

- Asian Date Mussel (*Arcuatula senhousia*)
- European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)
- Dead Mans Fingers (*Codium fragile*)
- Hydroid (*Coryne Eximia*)
- Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) (Figure 7)
- New Zealand Screw Shell (*Maoricolpus roseus*)
- Asiann Semele (*Theora lubrica*)

A 2023 survey only found two invasive species in the vicinity of the Port of Bell Bay wharfs, they were the Piecrust Crab (*Metacarcinus novaezelandiae*) and Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*).

Vessel ballast water and visiting vessels are a potential means by which invasive marine species may be introduced to the Tamar Estuary.

Figure 7 – Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*)



4.7.7 LANDSIDE SOIL AND GROUNDWATER

All excavations and movement of soil are managed in accordance with TasPorts *Environmental Guideline Managing contaminated material during ground penetration and excavation*.

TasPorts owned land within the industrial precinct has been used for a range of industrial activities including bulk fuel storage, waste processing and metal recycling. Soils on TasPorts land in Bell Bay is assumed to be contaminated unless sampled and tested to confirm otherwise.

Silicomanganese slag from the nearby ferro alloy smelter has been extensively used as fill material across the Bell Bay industrial precinct. Manganese concentrations in soils can be expected to be elevated where slag has been used.

4.7.8 LANDSIDE WILDLIFE

The Port of Bell Bay and surrounding land includes vegetated areas and natural habitat suitable for wildlife and weeds. Many areas of the port are flat and protected, and so provide suitable habitat for nesting and roosting Silver Gulls (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) and Pacific Gulls (*Larus pacificus*). (Figure 8)

Figure 8 – Pacific Gulls (*Larus pacificus*)



4.7.9 MIDDLE ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA

Opposite the main Port of Bell Bay is the Middle Island Conservation Area, declared under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 (refer to [Figure 9](#)).

The area contains a significant saltmarsh of approximately 52 hectare. In 2013, coastal saltmarshes were listed as a vulnerable ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. Under the EPBC Act, any action with significant impact on a listed threatened species and/or community, is prohibited without approval.

Figure 9 – Middle Island Conservation Area



4.7.10 WEEDS

Six species of declared weeds have been observed within the Port of Bell Bay ⁵ ([Figure 10](#)):

- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*)
- Crack Willow (*Salix fragili var.fragilis*)
- Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
- Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia sp.*)
- Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitancia*)

Figure 10 – Declared weeds (2019)

⁵ Port of Bell Bay – Weed Management, NBES, 2019



4.7.11 NOISE

Noise generated from the port and the various industries within the Bell Bay industrial precinct can impact communities at Beauty Point and Clarence Point on the West Tamar and the southern area of George Town.

While noise generated by the industrial zone industries has the greatest impact on these communities, TasPorts has received occasional complaints concerning noise from mobile plant and equipment at the port.

A baseline noise assessment of the port is being undertaken and a noise model developed during 2024.

This work will assess the noise and vibration risk to identified sensitive receptors/premises and compliance with relevant legal and other requirements and adopted best practice noise levels.

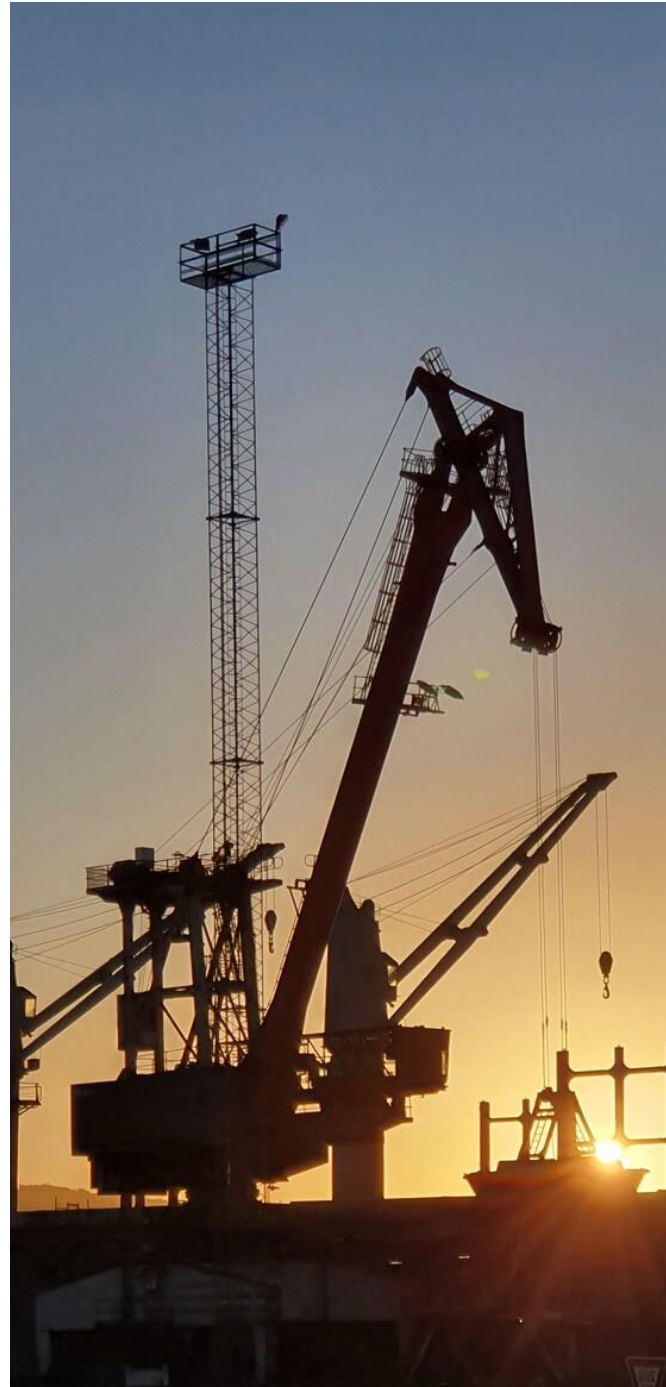
The aim of this work is to prevent noise and vibration related environmental harm or environmental nuisance arising from the activities undertaken at the port.

4.7.12 LIGHT

TasPorts applies a [light pollution management standard](#) to its port operations.

Aligned with this standard, a baseline light assessment of the Port of Bell Bay is scheduled to be undertaken in FY2026.

Recommendations from this assessment will be taken into consideration for existing light sources and for future site development.

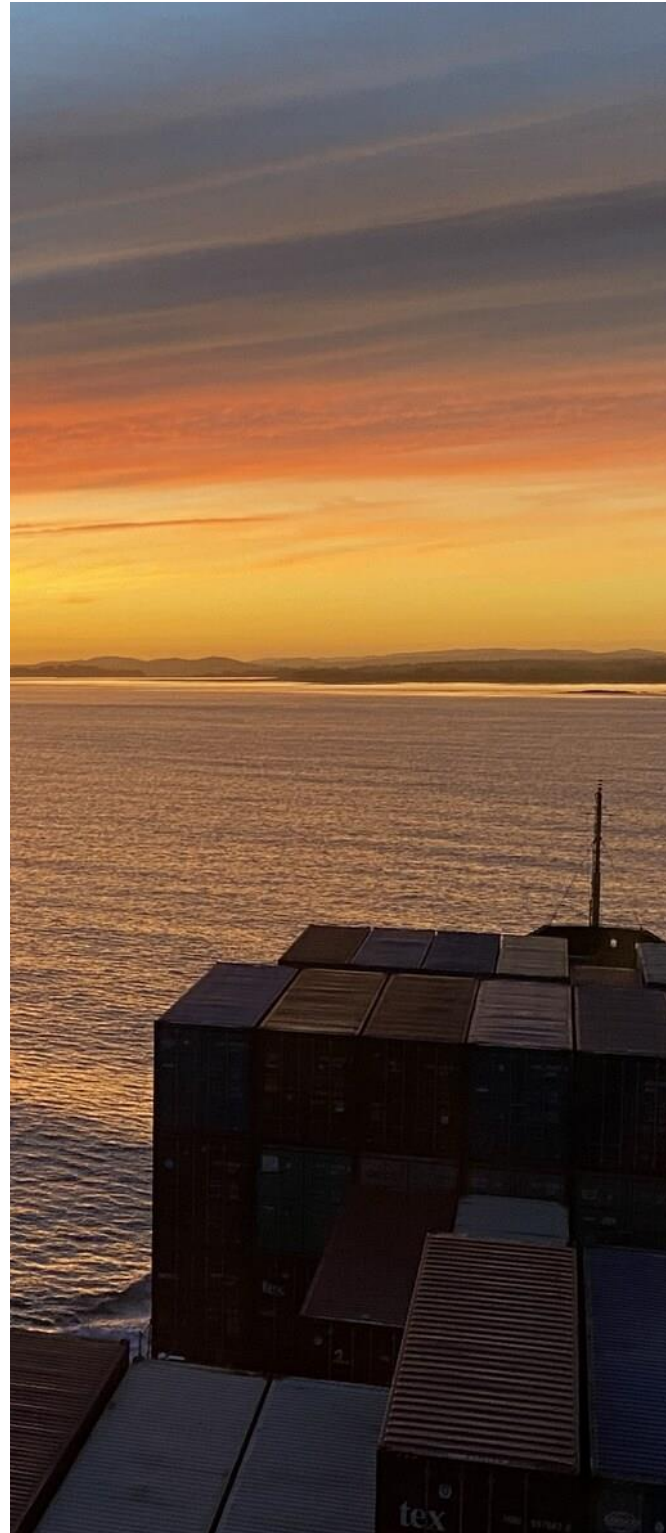


5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS, IMPACTS AND RISKS

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

An environmental aspect is a TasPorts activity, product or service that can interact with the environment.

Significant environmental aspects are defined as activities, products or services at the Port of Bell Bay that have potential for extreme or major environmental impact (maximum foreseeable impact of major or extreme).



An overview of the Port of Bell Bay significant environmental aspects is provided in [Table 6](#).

Table 6 – Overview of Port of Bell Bay significant environmental aspects

Significant environmental aspects	Description
Air emissions	Dust emissions from bulk dry cargo handling, boat maintenance and repair, construction projects or significant changes in operations or operations without sufficient air quality controls. Smoke and air pollutions from fire.
Energy and climate	Fuel use (diesel, gas, petrol, etc) and electricity use. Management of port infrastructure and operations to be prepared for increased flooding, sea level rise, increased high tides and to predicted changes in supply chains. This may include planning, design and maintenance.
Fire fighting foam containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Potential for marine contamination from PFAS containing firefighting foam stored on the port if used.
Habitat disturbance	Disturbance of marine ecology and habitats during maintenance or marine infrastructure development (new project / change).
Marine discharges – ballast	Water discharge by vessels to maintain stability and trim.
Noise emissions	Excessive night time noise, noisy construction works, underwater noise from piling, noise from changes in operations or operations without adequate noise control.
Invasive species	Cargo handling and vessel movement activities that may influence the introduction of terrestrial or marine pests.
Release contaminants	Release of contaminants from slipyard contaminated soils (from legacy and current slipyard activity), legacy contamination from historical fill activities and historic above and underground bulk hydrocarbon storages, or from marine sediments mobilised during dredging and seabed levelling.
Regulatory compliance	Regulatory approvals, monitoring, reporting or other environmental regulatory requirements.
Sediment disturbance	Excavation of soils, dredging and seabed levelling of marine sediments.
Spills – hydrocarbons, hazardous materials	Spills from vessel accidents, fires, chemical storages, bunkering and bulk hydrocarbon transfer accidents or failures.
Waste management	Compliance with waste and controlled waste regulations – appropriate identification and segregation of wastes, use of licenced transporters and authorised storage.
Wildlife interactions	Disturbance to marine wildlife, death or injury to protected species, habitat and animal welfare.

5.2 MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

TasPorts' Environment and Sustainability team defines organisational-wide monitoring requirements.

Environmental monitoring requirements for the Port of Bell Bay include:

- Whole of port noise assessment every five years.
- Marine ecology, habitat, water quality and marine pest surveys every five years.
- Marine sediments less than three years prior to dredging, or in water construction activity.
- Initial baseline light assessment repeated after significant change to port development / lighting.
- Site contamination assessment of areas suspected to be contaminated.
- Port energy use (GJ), water use (L), waste quantities (tonnes), and greenhouse emissions quantities (tonnes CO₂^e-).
- Number and type of environmental incidents and complaints.
- Verification inspections to assess the:
 - Management of significant environmental aspects,
 - Implementation status of improvement plan initiatives, and
 - Compliance with legal requirements

Additional project specific monitoring for dust, noise, water quality or marine mammal observations may be required if the project activity is deemed as being high risk. This is identified in a project specific Environmental Management Plan.



5.3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Environmental performance indicators to monitor compliance, improve performance on significant environmental aspects, monitor progress towards achieving the environmental objectives and targets for the Port of Bell Bay are shown below in **Table 7**.

Table 7 – Port of Bell Bay Environmental Performance Indicators

Performance indicator	Relevant Target/s
1. % completion of Port Environmental Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All objectives and targets in the Environmental Improvement Plan (section 8)
2. Annual number of environmental incidents total (and per vessel movement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No waste management non-compliances Eliminate and reduce water discharges
3. Annual number of hydrocarbon spill incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero discharges of hydrocarbons to the marine environment
4. Annual number and type of environmental complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in community and port user complaints (noise and dust)
5. Annual Total tonnes CO2-e Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions (and per number of vessel movements per year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net zero carbon emissions by 2040
6. Annual amount of recycled waste as a % of waste to landfill (tonnes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track and monitor waste and recycling targets



6. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

TasPorts staff, contractors and other positions under the control of TasPorts have a general duty of care to take all steps to prevent and minimise environmental harm.

The Environment and Sustainability Manager, and the Environment Team, provide specialist support, communications and advice to the Port of Bell Bay. Environmental responsibilities and accountabilities of TasPorts staff are documented in position descriptions and shown below in [Table 8](#) and [Figure 11](#).

Table 8 - Environmental responsibilities of key personnel

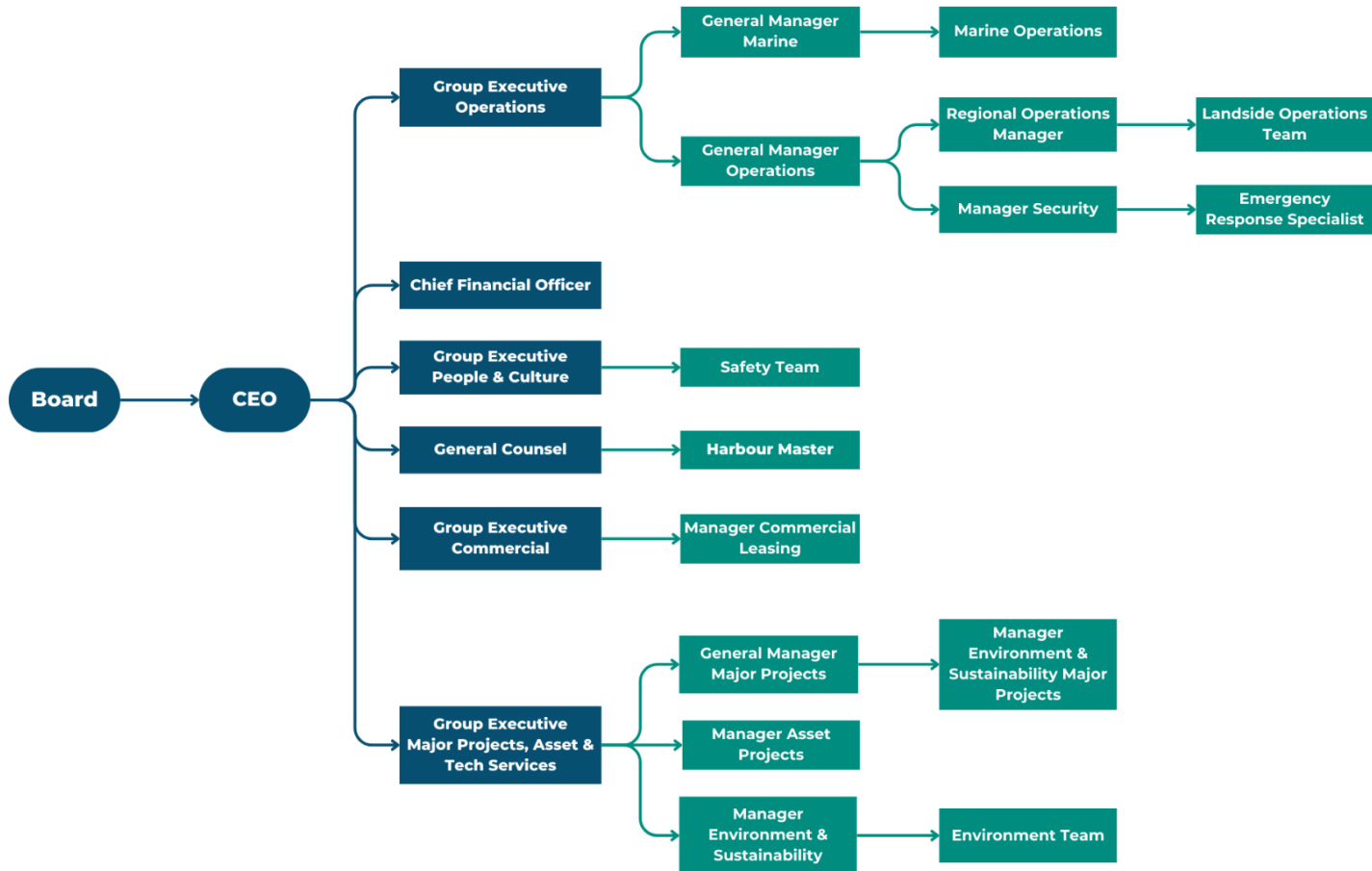
Category	Description
Policy	Board of Directors and CEO
Objectives, Targets and Strategic Planning	CEO and Executive Team Environment and Sustainability Manager General Manager Operations Manager Operations
Port Operations – Landside	Manager Operations
Port Operations – Marine	General Manager Marine
Harbour Master and Port Navigation Procedures	Harbour Master
Dredging	Executive Manager Major Projects, Assets and Technical Services
Infrastructure Development and Project Management	Executive Manager Major Projects, Assets and Technical Services Manager Asset Projects Major Projects General Manager
Contractor Management	Operations Manager Manager Asset Projects Major Projects General Manager
Property Leasing	Commercial Leasing Manager
Purchasing	Commercial Finance Manager
Emergency Response Plans & Crisis Management Plans	Operations Manager Emergency Response Specialist
Emergency Response - Oil Spill Response Procedures	Harbour Master
Emergency Response - Oil Spill Equipment	Operations Manager
Budgeting and Resourcing	Environment and Sustainability Manager Environment and Sustainability Manager Major Projects Operations Manager
EMS development, environmental monitoring data and records management	Environment and Sustainability Manager Environment and Sustainability Manager Major Projects

EMS implementation and general duty of care	All staff
Licences permits and compliance records.	Environment Team Safety Team (dangerous goods only) Landside Operations Team Environment and Sustainability Manager Major Projects
Environmental Regulatory Authority liaison	Environment and Sustainability Manager Environmental Team
Environmental specialist advice and incident support	Environment Team
Energy and Carbon Emissions	Operations Manager General Manager Marine Operations Environment and Sustainability Manager Project Manager
Air Quality Noise Soil Pollution Management Waste Management	Operations Manager Project Manager
Water Pollution Management And Wildlife & invasive species management	Operations Manager Project Manager Marine Operations



Figure 11 – The location of staff with environmental responsibilities within the TasPorts organisation structure

TasPorts Organisation Structure Environmental Responsibilities



6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

A description of environmental management initiatives that have been allocated funding and resources are outlined in **Table 9**.

Table 9 – Environmental financial resource allocation FY23 and FY 24

Category	Project	Environmental initiatives allocated funding and resources
Environmental monitoring	Baseline assessments	Port of Bell Bay Marine Baseline Environmental Assessment Port of Bell Bay Baseline Noise Assessment Soil contamination assessments
Energy and climate	Carbon reduction	Bell Bay energy audit
		GHG emission reporting
Equipment	Whole of port	Replacement and upgrade of oil spill equipment
Emergency response	Whole of port	Development of Oil Spill Response First Strike plans
Environmental training	Landside operations	Oil spill response and equipment operator training Contaminated material during ground penetration and excavation training
	Marine operations	Marine Piling Environmental protocol training Marine mammal observation training Biosecurity marine pest posters
Stakeholder engagement	Bass Strait Renewable Energy Terminal	Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone, Tamar Estuary & Esk River (TEER) Program, aboriginal engagement
	Vessel scrubber effluent policy	EPA Tasmania
	Invasive marine species and in-water hull cleaning guideline	Biosecurity Tasmania, EPA Tasmania
Biosecurity	Declared weed management	Weed eradication and control
Materials and Waste	Waste Management	Waste disposal and recycling
	Fluorine free policy	Fire fighting foam audit and review

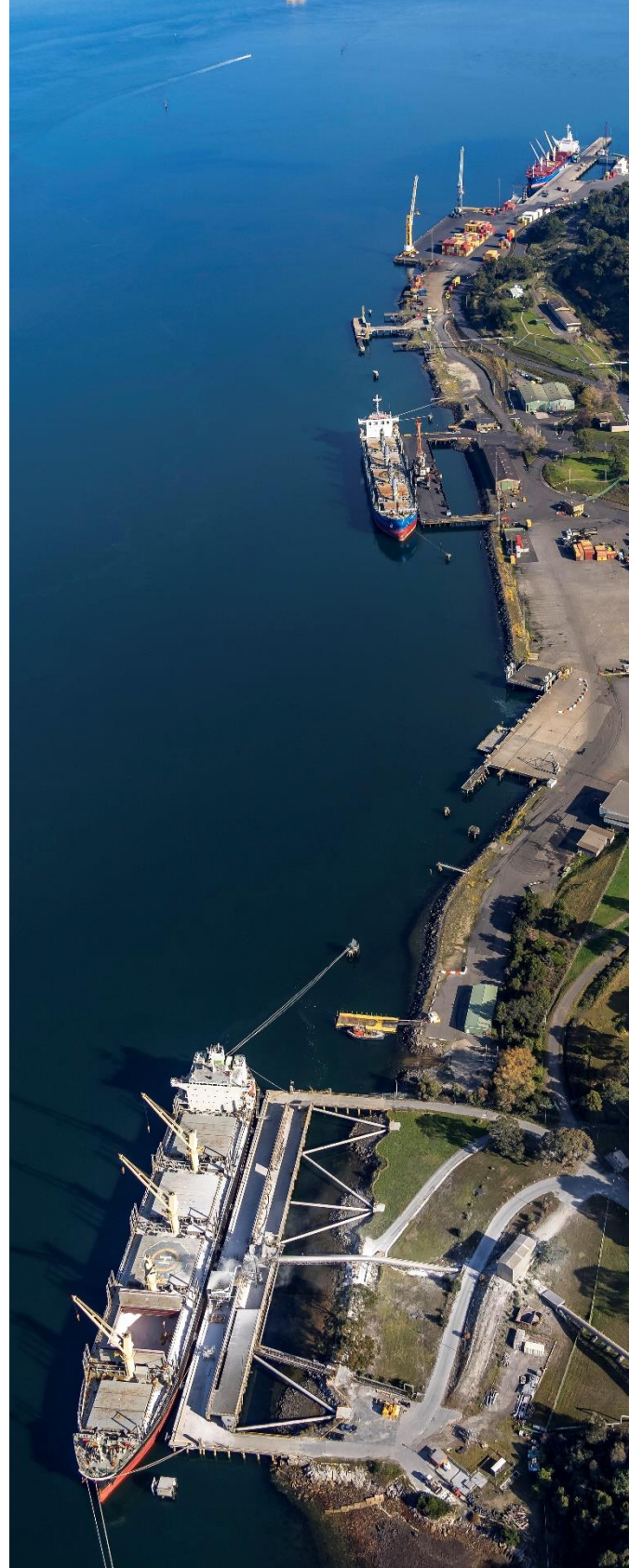
7. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

7.1 COMPLIANCE (CONFORMITY) REVIEW

TasPorts conducts inspections and assessments to ensure compliance with legal and other requirements and the achievement of TasPorts' environment objectives and targets.

Compliance is assured and evaluated by:

- Reviewing and approving contractor Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) to ensure that environmental aspects and compliance requirements have been identified and suitable controls put in place to mitigate environmental impacts and comply with permit conditions and other requirements.
- Undertaking risk assessments for all new activities.
- Conducting scheduled verification inspections to assess:
 - management of significance environmental aspects,
 - compliance with permits and EMPs, and
 - implementation status of improvement plan initiatives contained in the [Section 8 EIP](#), and achievements of the environmental objectives and targets documented in the [Section 8 EIP](#).



7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW











Performance against Port of Bell Bay’s objectives and targets is reviewed annually and reported every two (2) years in the Port of Bell Bay public environment report. Annual reporting on these indicators will demonstrate over time the effectiveness of the Port of Bell Bay’s environmental improvement plan in attaining improved environmental performance.












Performance indicators for FY22 and FY23 years are compared in **Table 10** below.

Table 10 -Port of Bell Bay Environmental Performance FY23

Target/s	Performance indicator	FY22	FY23	FY23 Progress Against Target
All objectives and targets from Section 8 - Environmental Improvement Plan	Percentage completion of Port Environmental Improvement Plan	Not available	Not available	Unable to assess until FY24
No waste management non-compliances Eliminate and reduce water discharges	Annual number of environmental incidents total (and per vessel movement)	6 (0.025)	5 (0.021)	No waste management non-compliances or discharges to water occurred in FY23
Zero discharges of hydrocarbons to the marine environment	Annual number of hydrocarbon spill incidents entering water	0	0	One hydrocarbon spill occurred on port land in FY23 Zero discharges to the marine environment
Reduction in community and port user complaints (noise and dust)	Annual total number and type of environmental complaints	0	1 - Air	Complaint regarding dust from dry bulk cargo
Net zero carbon emissions by 2040	Annual Total tonnes CO2e scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions per year (and tonnes per number of vessel movements)	236 tonnes CO2-e (0.98)	237 tonnes CO2-e (1.02)	Negligible change in total tonnes CO2e emissions per year was reported
Track and monitor waste and recycling targets	Annual amount of recycled waste as a percentage of waste to landfill (tonnes)	0% (Calendar year 2022)	0% (Calendar year 2023)	Monitoring of waste and recyclables has commenced.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY24 – FY26

Objective / Target	Completion date / status
Environmental Management System – To develop ISO14001 aligned Environmental Management Systems and obtain EcoPorts Certification	
Port of Bell Bay EMP and EcoPorts Certification	FY24 Q4 – in progress 
Air emissions – Dust and air emissions from port does not adversely impact community amenity or disrupt other port activities	
Review customer compliance with <u>TasPorts Bulk Handling Standard</u>	FY25 Q2 
Biosecurity – Ensure that TasPorts take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risk	
Improve awareness and competency relating to marine pest biosecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port staff education Baseline survey Updated Harbour Master Instructions (HMI)	FY25 – in progress 
Community and heritage – Proactive and transparent communications and consultation with stakeholders and surrounding communities regarding environment impacts, port and marine history and sustainability. Growing our understanding of Tasmanian aboriginal values and history associated with our port and marine areas and acknowledging this.	
Publicly communicate Port of Bell Bay environmental and sustainability performance	FY25 – in progress 
Share information internally and externally on developing a key Renewable Energy Hub at the Port of Bell Bay	FY25 
Undertake light pollution assessment for proposed port development changes	FY26 
Community and heritage – Proactive and transparent communications and consultation with stakeholders and surrounding communities regarding environment impacts, port and marine history and sustainability. Growing our understanding of Tasmanian aboriginal values and history associated with our port and marine areas and acknowledging this.	
Increase understanding and acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal values and history associated with our port and marine areas	FY26 
Energy and climate – Take clear and decisive action in relation to climate change	
Identify port specific climate change risks and opportunities	FY25 - in progress 
Develop carbon reduction plan for Port of Bell Bay in alignment with TasPorts Carbon Reduction Target	FY25 
Identify suitable carbon sequestration sites	FY24 – in progress 

Objective / Target	Completion date / status
Noise – Minimise impacts to the community from port related noise emissions	
Reduction in number of complaints	FY24 Q4 – in progress 
Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat	
Implement improved stormwater management controls	FY25 
Water pollution – Eliminate and reduce water discharges to protect marine water quality and marine habitat	
Improve marine discharge controls at the Slipway	FY25 
Land and wildlife – Minimise impacts and seek opportunities to enhance marine habitat, flora and fauna	
Known and understood marine habitat, flora and fauna values across all sites	FY25 Q1 – in progress 
Internally share knowledge of port marine wildlife and environmental values	FY24 Q4 
Effective management of prohibited weed species	FY24 - ongoing 
Materials and waste – 100% compliance with waste regulations and active minimisation of waste volumes. No adverse impact from activities on TasPorts land from existing contaminated soils and sediment	
No waste management non-compliance	FY24 – ongoing 
No adverse environmental impacts from legacy waste stockpiles	FY26 – in progress 
Track and monitor waste and recycling targets	FY24 – ongoing 
Participate in Clean Up Australia Day	FY24 – ongoing 
Develop and implement PFAS and fluorine free foam policy	FY25 – in progress 

9. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

TasPorts public Environmental Report is published on the TasPorts website and is [available here](#).

10. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

TasPorts has a Sustainability Strategy which seeks primarily to embed sustainability management at all levels of the organisation through three objectives (**Figure 12**)

Figure 12 - TasPorts Sustainability Strategy



At TasPorts, Sustainability means:
Conducting business in a manner that enhances future economic, social and environmental value and does not compromise it.

CASE STUDY ONE

Below provides details on three examples of environmental projects undertaken by TasPorts to improve environmental conditions and sustainable development at the Port of Bell Bay.



Port of Bell Bay Renewables hub

Contact	Susan McLeod
Position	Manager Environment and Sustainability
Email	reception@tasports.com.au

Environmental issue

Relationship with community

Climate change

Noise

Water pollution

Relevance to ESPO 5 E's Framework

Exemplify	Enable
Encourage	Enforce

Port of Bell Bay | Tasmania

Ports play an important role in offshore wind project construction and operations – this is where a lot of the action happens.

The Port of Bell Bay is a critical gateway for the movement of products in and out of northern Tasmania and the area is renowned for power production through the well established hydro-electric schemes.

Large offshore wind turbines and foundations are delivered to and assembled at deep-water commercial ports. A local port provides a base for managing construction and ongoing maintenance of the wind farm.

TasPorts is a key landowner at the Port of Bell Bay and within Bell Bay's Advanced Manufacturing Zone, and is continuing to work with broader industry and government agencies to support renewable energy opportunities and transitional projects, driving momentum for the port as a key Renewables Energy Hub, and offering multi-user port facilities.

Offering unique opportunities for industrial development, the Port of Bell Bay is located near large cleared, flat parcels of land, and is not subject to urban encroachment issues. Through the development of multi-user wharf and landside infrastructure, the Port of Bell Bay offers opportunity for emerging industries, in particular renewable energy, alongside the port's established operations within forestry, minerals and container sectors.

TasPorts are partnering with the Blue Economy and doing what we can to upgrade facilities to meet the needs of the renewable energy industry.

TasPorts demonstrates their ongoing commitment to working with industry to explore and pursue growth for our northern port.

TasPorts' progress in support of renewable energy at the Port of Bell Bay is a clear demonstration of the organisation's commitment to foster opportunities to facilitate new and emerging opportunities alongside existing and established industries.



Resilient infrastructure and trade growth

Climate and energy

Community outreach

Water pollution prevention

Materials and waste

Related website links: [Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone | The BBAMZ Story](#)
[Tasmanian Government | Hydrogen Hub Vision](#)

CASE STUDY TWO



The Port of Bell Bay Environmental Monitoring

Contact Susan McLeod
Position Manager Environment and Sustainability
Email reception@tasports.com.au

Environmental issue
Relationship with community
Climate change
Water quality
Dredging operations
Relevance to ESPO
5 E's Framework
Exemplify Enable
Encourage Enforce

Port of Bell Bay | Tasmania

TasPorts aims to leave a positive legacy for residents and businesses in Northern Tasmania, especially those living near the Tamar Estuary.

Key features of environmental management across TasPorts is the understanding of natural resource threats and values at our ports. In optimising this understanding, TasPorts have committed to five yearly environmental assessments in all major ports.

The purpose of base line monitoring is to know what the characteristics of the environment are. TasPorts then aims to maintain or enhance the ecosystems by ensuring best environmental practices are employed.

TasPorts is committed to educating our staff and contractors to ensure we everyone is compliant with Environmental legislation and our own standards are met. For example by having standards/protocols for:

- piling
- sea bed levelling and dredgeing
- managing prohibited species (weeds)
- invasive marine species

Environmental threats and values

Three sampling events over a 12 month period using underwater cameras, ROVs and physical samples for:

- sediment quality
- sediment particle size
- water quality surface and bottom
- invasive marine species
- native species
- benthic species
- fish species
- aquatic plants - sea grass

Well established infestations of pampas grass thrive across the region.

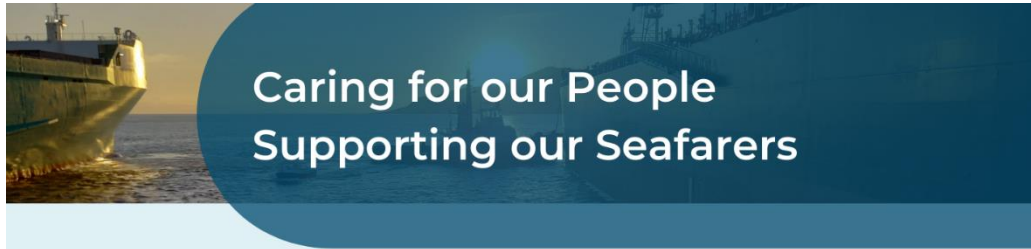
TasPorts proactively work with stakeholders for shared outcomes, for example managing prohibited species - Pampas Grass, and ensuring standards/protocols are maintained with bulk loading and unloading of product.



Sharing data with stakeholders - Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program and using it to guide port maintenance and improvements.

Related website link: [Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers \(TEER\) Program](#)

CASE STUDY THREE



Caring for our People Supporting our Seafarers

Contact **Natasha Wardale**
Position **Community Engagement and Partnerships Officer**

Environmental issue
Relationship with community

Relevance to ESPO
5 E's Framework

Exemplify **Enable**
Encourage **Enforce**

Mission to Seafarers Bell Bay

As Tasmania's port operators, we recognise the invaluable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the world economy, often at great personal cost to themselves and their families.



The Mission to Seafarers charity works hard across Tasmania to actively respond with loving care to the many challenges and dangers faced by seafarers.

The Mission to Seafarers provides seafarers with a chance to connect with their loved ones and children, and to mentally and spiritually recharge for the next leg of their voyage.

The TasPorts Operations and Marine teams see first-hand vessel crew members in need of compassion and care. These teams have facilitated medical assistance and welfare checks for visiting seafarers on many occasions.

TasPorts partners with the Mission's goals through financial and in-kind support, as well as promotion of their welfare services to all visiting vessels.



Related website link: [Mission to Seafarers | Port of Bell Bay](#)