

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #10 – 6 September 2023

Chair's Summary

The TasPorts Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) deals specifically with providing advice to TasPorts on dredging and dredge spoil disposal. Additional information on the TACC may be found at [Technical Advisory Committee \(tasports.com.au\)](https://tasports.com.au). The TACC held its tenth meeting on the 6th September 2023. The major purpose of the meeting was to provide the TACC with an update on survey and other issues concerned with the proposed maintenance dredging in Devonport.

Participants present at the TasPorts Board Room, 48 Formby Road, Devonport were: Ian Cartwright (TACC Chair), Stuart Richey (TSIC), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), Caroline Lindus (ERA Planning & Environment, Susan McLeod (TasPorts), Jim Otterson (community representative), Kelly Hunt (TarFish), Terry Travers (Mersey Yacht Club), Michel deVos (TasPorts),

Those present using Teams were: Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts); Fionna Bourne (EPA), Sven Frijlink (DNRE)

Efforts continue to engage the local indigenous community. It was noted that TasPorts is working to develop a more comprehensive history and knowledge of the port area at the four major ports.

TasPorts confirmed that in May 2023 the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) accepted the sediment analysis plan and dredging offshore disposal plan for Devonport dredging operations. In June 2023 further ecological surveys were completed on the offshore disposal grounds. It was determined that there were high conservation value reef habitats adjacent to the proposed site and the choice of disposal ground was determined to be inappropriate. Following basic 3D modelling to map the zone of impact and zone of influence, the proposed disposal ground was moved further west and ecological surveys will need to be done, to determine that this new site is appropriate.

Other marine surveys have been completed which include a towed video camera survey on scallop beds, and diver surveyed transects covering areas of giant kelp and sea grass. In addition, sediment sampling has been conducted. At 21 sites concentrations of nickel exceeded NAGD guideline screening values. Elutriate testing, designed to simulate release of contaminants from sediment during dredge material disposal, returned results that were below the Australia and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality default guidelines. No other kind of exceedances or contamination was identified and the proposed dredge material is considered suitable for ocean disposal

A marine species survey in the port area was also completed. 44 species were detected and two were identified as introduced species; both have been previously detected. The importance of engaging organisations such as TarFish in identifying recreational fishing spots to assist in disposal site location and future surveys was highlighted. The TACC expressed satisfaction at the conduct of the surveys and noted the results as presented.

The fishing industry remain concerned that, in their view, the survey report does not make sufficient acknowledgement of the scallop industry work completed at that time of the previous maintenance dredging. Industry maintains this work clearly showed the dramatic impact of sediment disposal on scallops and it does not want a repeat experience.

TasPorts indicated that the proposed maintenance dredging programme will not rely upon previous data and acknowledged the extra information that was provided by Stuart.

IMAS complete a relatively comprehensive recreational fishing survey every five years which can provide a reasonable indication of species and fishing locations, and how these change over time. Data

from the most recent survey will be publicly available when completed and may be useful particularly while the decision- making process on dump sites is occurring.

A Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (SCEP) is in draft form and will need to be updated to reflect the new dumping location. Once this is confirmed the SCEP will be provided to the next TACC for consideration.