

Devonport Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #9 Wednesday 17 May 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 ninth meeting on Wednesday 17 May 2023. Participants present at the TasPorts Board Room, 48 Formby Road, Devonport were: Ian Cartwright (TACC Chair), Stuart Richey (TSIC), Tim Hess (TSIC), Caroline Lindus (ERA Planning & Environment), Jim Otterson (community representative), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), Susan McLeod (TasPorts) and Mick Wall (Harbour Master - TasPorts). Those present using Teams were: Penny Sale (TasPorts), Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts); Michel deVos (TasPorts).

The major purposes of the meeting were to:

- provide the TACC with an update on maintenance dredging activities; and
- discuss the TACC TORs and performance to date.

Some items of interest were raised under 'other business'.

Maintenance dredging update. The TACC were provided with the final multi criteria analysis (MCA) report of options for dredge spoil proposal. Nearshore and offshore ecological surveys have commenced, including survey transects through scallop beds, seagrass beds and areas of giant kelp. Surveys have also been completed at the proposed offshore spoil ground and reference points on a nearby reef mentioned during previous TACC discussions. Sampling and Analysis Plans have been lodged with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and only minor changes are anticipated. Results from sediment analysis have been presented and no issues identified. Non-TasPorts TACC members expressed satisfaction with the consultation and overall process followed for the current round maintenance dredging and noted that the successful approval of a 10 year permit provides a solid basis for moving forward.

TACC TORs and performance. The TACC noted the changes to the TACC TORs made the previous day at the Burnie CC. It was agreed to compile a register of interests of Committee members and to check the register at the commencement of each meeting, noting that it is likely that there will be increased scrutiny of how interests are dealt with. The TACC discussed a performance survey that had been circulated previously. It was agreed that the Committee was functioning effectively and it was noted that it was important to provide sufficient time for the adequate consideration of agenda items. While TasPorts remains of the view that the current focus of the Committee should be on dredge disposal, the TACC will continue to act as a forum for updates and an exchange of information relating to general activities within the port.

Other Business

- Industry noted that additional trials had occurred relevant to assessing the impact of spoil disposal on scallop beds; reports covering these trials will be provided to TasPorts for circulation to members.
- Basic repair works are occurring on western side of the River; some temporary berths are in place for purposes for Quaylink project and TasPorts has been in discussion regarding their future.
- The Tasmanian Government has agreed to make a substantial investment in a Devonport Fishermans Wharf. TasPorts has offered an in-kind contribution and the Devonport City

Council is supportive with respect to land and associated works. Industry continue to push for support at a Federal level.

- Quaylink dredging works have almost been completed, with one or two weeks of landside dredging remaining. Reclamation work is underway and a barge will shortly commence piling works. These are works expected to continue through to January.

Next meeting Likely to be some months away, with the date based on having sufficient material of significance to bring back to TACC for information, discussion and advice.