

Burnie Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting 16 May 2023

Chair's Summary

The Burnie TasPorts Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) held its first meeting at the offices of the Cradle to Coast Authority, 1-3 Spring Street, Burnie. TasPorts has established the TACC as part of its commitment to consultation with the community. The Committee will deal specifically with providing advice to TasPorts on dredging and dredge spoil disposal. Additional issues raised by TACC members outside the remit of the Committee and referred to TasPorts for consideration and action as appropriate.

Additional information on the TACC may be found at <https://www.tasports.com.au/quay-link/technical-advisory-committee> This inaugural meeting covered three issues; introductions and familiarisation, draft TORs for the TACC and an overview of the status of Burnie port with respect to dredging and dredge spoil disposal.

Present in person: Ian Cartwright (TACC Chair), Stuart Richey (Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council), Caroline Lindus (ERA Planning & Environment), Jess Mercury (Cradle Coast Authority – stand in for Sheree Vertigan), Debbie Thompson (Burnie Yacht Club and local yacht club), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), and Susan McLeod (TasPorts),

Present via teams: Fionna Bourne (EPA), Sven Frijlink (Department of Natural Resources and Environment), Simon Overland (Burnie City Council), Rodney Lester (ERA), Penny Sale (TasPorts), Michel de Vos (TasPorts), Mick Wall – (Harbour Master – TasPorts)

TACC members provided personal introductions and outlined their various interests in the work of the TACC Committee.

The draft TACC TORs that had been circulated prior to the meeting were reviewed and a number of suggested amendments provided and accepted. With these changes made, the Committee accepted the TORs, noting that a final version would be circulated and published on the TasPorts website. It was agreed that proper environmental procedures must be in place to effectively manage impacts of the dredging on the marine environment and the community. The Committee is advisory and will develop information and advice for the TasPorts executive to inform their decision making. TACC information and advice will be considered but will not necessarily be included in TasPort decisions.

TasPorts presented an overview of the status of Burnie Port with respect to dredging and disposal, including future needs. A planning process to improve the depths of, and safe navigation to, berths has commenced. Subsequent dredging activities will need to address upwards of 100,000m³ of material over the design depth currently, which has been accumulating in the Port at a rate of around 100,000m³ per annum.

In late 2022 TasPorts undertook a period of sea bed levelling in berth 7 and 5 to sweep material out of berth pockets. The seabed levelling process is done under an agreed set of environmental standards/conditions. Provided these are met, no additional approval processes will be triggered.

Disposal of dredge material is more challenging given the existence of known contaminants including arsenic, lead and other heavy metals. Testing and monitoring of dredge and disposal activities will need to be rigorous, and TasPorts are committed to a comprehensive analysis of options before taking a decision on the best strategy for planned maintenance dredging. It was noted that the levels of contaminants in dredge material will impact options that include offshore disposal.

The next TACC meeting will be held in around mid-August.