

# Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #11 Thursday 29 February 2024

## 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](http://tasports.com.au)).

The TACC held its eleventh meeting on the 29th February 2024. 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) and Michel de Vos (TasPorts),

Those present using Teams were: Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts); Tom Sullivan (GHD), Mick Wall (Harbour Master – TasPorts), Sam Wilson-Haffendon (TasPorts)

The major purpose of the meeting were to provide the TACC with an overview of planned maintenance dredging and disposal of dredge spoil. Updates on other issues were also provided.

**Site for maintenance dredge spoil disposal.** Careful consideration of options for the site of at-sea dredge spoil disposal continue. A third, preferred option that takes account of high conservation value reef habitats is being considered, with further sampling and modelling of spoil transport around this site to occur. Thus work will include resurveying the scallop bed to the east of the proposed site.

**Maintenance dredging.** The total volumes between the entrance channel and inner harbour are much the same with ~235,000 m<sup>3</sup> to be removed from each area. An 18-week dredge program is planned to commence in September 2024 with the nominated dredger being TSHD Albatross. The entrance channel dredging will take around 6.5 weeks and the inner harbour 11.5 weeks, with the difference due to complete the project as it takes longer without the overflow and shorter loading time as there is more time sailing. The identified offshore disposal ground is 13km to the north-northwest.

**Modelling sediment plumes.** Extensive modelling of sediment plumes has been completed, looking at zones of influence, moderate impact and high impact with respect to benthic organisms and communities. The results of the modelling suggest that overall impacts from the deposition of fine sediments is negligible. There are plumes and there are limited areas of high impacts, which are localised within the port area. Neither the moderate nor high impact zones are expected to extend to seagrass habitat. The zone of influence does not extend to the area of commercial scallop beds either.

**Monitoring dredging operations.** Before dredging commences, TasPorts will undertake baseline monitoring to understand background turbidity. TasPorts will also be monitoring during the dredging via loggers placed at strategic positions, in addition to the monitoring that the dredge contractor will be require. The modelling will assist TasPorts with the design of controls that the dredging contractor monitor has to comply as well as those that that TasPorts needs to implement.

**Engagement.** The TACC continues to endeavour to engage with First Nations people and TasPorts has contacted the Six Rivers Group and requested a representative. TasPorts has established an Engagement Programme to seek wider consultation and input into TACC matters.

**Quaylink Update.** TasPorts provided an update on where the Quaylink project, which was meeting its necessary targets. The project is to be delivered in two parts: the first was dredging and reclamation work, which was complete late last year. There were no exceedances of any of the specified levels in the turbidity monitoring. The second is wharf construction with completion due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.