

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #12 Thursday, 25 July 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 Consultative Committee (<https://tasports.com.au/technical-advisory-consultative-committee>).

The TACC held its twelfth meeting on the 25th of July 2024. Most participants met TasPorts Board Room, 48 Formby Road, Devonport. Those present were:

Ian Cartwright (TACC Chair), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), Susan McLeod (TasPorts), Michel de Vos (Tasports), Mick Wall (Harbour Master – TasPorts), Michelle McGinity (TasPorts), Sheree Vertigan (Cradle Coast Authority), Tim Hess (TSIC), Kelly Hunt (TARFish and recreational fisher), Christa Capel (ERA Planning & Environment).

Attending via Microsoft Teams were: Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts), Ellie Oddie-Jones (TasPorts), Freddie Pastorelli (BMT), Darren Richardson (BMT), Ian Teakle (BMT), Matthew Barnes (BMT)

The major purposes of the meeting were to review: the results of the Devonport spoil ground baseline marine surveys; the draft long-term monitoring and management plan (LTMMP) covering dredging operations for the next 10 years; the GHD peer review of the GHD Dredge Plume Modelling Report; the Adaptive Monitoring and Management Plan (AMMP); and the progress on the sea dumping permit application with the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Devonport spoil ground baseline marine surveys. A variety of baseline surveys have been conducted at the new dredge spoil disposal ground (DSDG), the location of which has been changed a number of times to ensure disturbances to the marine ecosystems are minimised. The DSDG comprises of generally sandy, flat bottom with minimal sand ripples indicating less turbulence/slow water movement. Scallops, fish species and other fauna, including infauna, were sampled and no species of specific concern were observed.

Draft long-term monitoring and management plan (LTMMP). The LTMMP forms part of the Sea Dumping Permit application, which requires approval by the DCCEEW. Once finalised, the LTMMP will be a public document and will follow DCCEEW's guidelines for long term dredging. The Sea Dumping Permit will be valid for 10 years. The LTMMP includes information on stakeholder engagement, dredging activity over the 10-year plan as well as a contingency plan; physical conditions (climate, tides, sediment, water quality etc); and a range of environmental receptors (fish, scallops, other fauna) that might be impacted by dredging activities. The results of plume modelling will also be included in the LTMMP.

BMT review of GHD Dredge Plume Modelling Report. BMT's review considered the application of the modelling tools used by GHD, data suitability and use of modelling outputs to create predictions of plume. The modelling framework included global models, atmospheric, wind, heat exchange and wave models, which were combined to create a mud transport model to predict the dispersal of fines from the new DSDG. Around 475,000m³ of dredge material will be removed using a trailer suction hopper dredge and transported to the new DSDG. The operation will take approx. 18 weeks with 6.5 weeks of dredging in the channel and 11.5 weeks inside the harbour. The dispersal of 3 main types of plume that will result from dredging and dumping operations were considered. BMT made 7 recommendations to address issues identified during the peer review of the GHD Dredge Plume Modelling Report, which were presented to the TACC. The majority of the recommendations

proposed by BMT were accepted by GHD and will be incorporated into final model predictions. The TACC were satisfied with both the recommendations and proposed responses.

Adaptive Monitoring and Management Plan (AMMP). The key elements of the AMMP, which is primarily concerned with the monitoring of turbidity, were presented to the TACC. The AMMP is tailored to support the upcoming maintenance dredging programme. Plume modelling and the estimated zone of Impact is used to inform the monitoring plan, which will be implemented pre, during and post dredging activities. Telemetered monitoring equipment will be used and the data generated will be displayed online and accessible by the public. The AMMP includes adaptive management actions in response to monitoring results, e.g. relocation of dredge, altering the overflow regime, or modifying the dredge cycle. The TACC reviewed the proposed monitoring site locations and agreed that they appeared adequate, noting that there has been an increase in the number of sites and that some of the data would be made publicly available on the TasPorts website.

The next TACC meeting was agreed to be scheduled for mid-September subject to further discussions.