

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #4 Thursday 30 June 2022

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 fourth meeting on 30 June. Most members met in the Aberdeen Room at the Devonport Paranaple Centre while Fionna Bourne (EPA), Sam Wilson-Haffenden (TasPorts), and Andrew Shelverton (TasPorts) participated via Teams.

Present at the Paranaple Centre in person were Ian Cartwright (TACC Chair), Terry Travers (Mersey Yacht Club), Jim Otterson (community representative), Stuart Richey (TSIC), Tim Hess (TSIC), Matt Skirving (Devonport City Council), Brad Perera (Devonport City Council), Susan McLeod (TasPorts), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts), Michele McGinity (TasPorts) and Mieke Matimba (ERA Planning & Environment).

It was noted that Susan McLeod has replaced Charlie Livesey as TasPorts' environmental representative on the TACC. Charlie's important contribution to the progress of the TACC was acknowledged by the committee.

The major purposes of the meeting were to receive an update on project QuayLink and associated dredging activity, and future dredging works. The TACC discussed a number of queries regarding TasPorts' response to the recommendations of the BMT peer review report on the modelling and monitoring of the QuayLink dredging activities. The discussion was primarily focused on whether the seabed would be monitored during the QuayLink dredge program. TasPorts stated that while they would consider it, they would ultimately be advised by the BMT modelling and recommendations in this regard. A full record of the questions and answers is captured in the minutes.

TasPorts provided an update on project QuayLink, firstly noting that the EPA approval was received in early May and can be found at [TasPorts Environmental Assessment Decision \(tasports.com.au\)](https://tasports.com.au). Several of the outcomes of the peer review have been incorporated into the permit, which TasPorts stated was an indication of their commitment to the process of improvement. The contractor tender evaluation is in its last stages and is estimated to be completed before the end of July. The QuayLink dredging is expected to begin by the end of 2022, or early 2023 depending on the approach and schedule of the selected contractor. An update will be provided at the next TACC meeting. In respect of the wider QuayLink project, the TACC noted that updates will be provided to stakeholders using a variety of methods including the TasPorts website, which is continuously updated, and a periodic newsletter which will be distributed to everyone who signs up to the mailing list. There are also several events in the pipeline, including a community briefing (date to be confirmed).

TasPorts provided an overview of the seabed levelling. The program is estimated to take six weeks to drag approximately 20,000 cubic metres from high spots to low spots using a large steel plow. Roughly 500 cubic metres will be moved per day from the outer and inner channel upstream. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before October 2022. The TACC noted that this is a routine process and no questions or concerns were raised.

TasPorts gave an overview of the maintenance dredging preparations made to date. TasPorts has engaged a consultant to undertake an options analysis for offshore dredge spoil disposal. This is part of the federal permit process that also includes stakeholder consultation. Maintenance dredging activity is anticipated to be at least 12 months off. The next step of consultation will be to share the

options analysis with the TACC, which is expected to take several months to complete. A fishing industry representative stated that if the spoil is taken offshore and dumped (over what is an area of non productive mud), the fishing industry will support it. If the current spoil ground is to be used, the fishing industry will view it as controversial. No other questions or concerns were raised by the TACC in relation to the maintenance dredging at this time.

The next TACC meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 28 July at 12:30pm.