

Technical Advisory Consultative Committee

Meeting #5 Thursday 28 July 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 fifth meeting on the 28 July. Most participants met in the Quoiba Room at the Devonport Paranaple Centre. Those using Teams were: Matt Skirving (Devonport City Council), Fiona Bourne (EPA), Sven Frijlink (DNRE), Sheree Vertigan (Cradle Coast Authority), Tom Atkins (AW Maritime), Michele McGinity (TasPorts) and Kathryn Wheatley (TasPorts).

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), Sam Wilson-Haffenden (TasPorts), Susan McLeod (TasPorts), Rhys Menadue (TasPorts) and Mieke Matimba (ERA Planning & Environment).

The major purposes of the meeting were to receive an update on the QuayLink project and associated dredging activity, seabed levelling activity and to have preliminary discussion of the arrangements for maintenance dredging, with input from TasPorts and consultants AW Marine.

QuayLink project

The TACC received a QuayLink project update. The contract for the dredging work has been awarded to a contractor and the dredging equipment is scheduled to be mobilised in mid-late November, with works commencing in December and continuing until February 2023. It was confirmed that the methodology will involve dredging from a barge and moving the spoil to shore to be de-watered and transported offsite. The dredge monitoring plan will take account of the additional sediment transport modelling discussed at an earlier TACC meeting.

Seabed levelling.

The tender for the seabed levelling closed on 28 July 2022. The work is on track to be completed by October. Additional monitoring (to the agreed EPA seabed levelling standard) will be performed as a result of the Goliath incident. This will provide a learning exercise to determine the level of disturbance created by the levelling activity.

Maintenance Dredging.

AW Maritime (AWM) provided an overview of how the different maintenance dredging options available will be evaluated using multi-criteria analysis. This will occur through a transparent process taking account of project aims, and the views of all the relevant stakeholders. The AWM team is in the process of creating key assessment criteria, which will include factors such as the costs and environmental impacts of different dredging options. These criteria will be weighted in order of importance by members of an assessment panel, to produce a shortlist of preferred options. Additional studies may be required to refine that list. The TACC were provided with a demonstration of the application of multi-criteria analysis and introduced to an initial list of options and assessment criteria. The TACC will be consulted throughout the options selection process and will provide feedback into the initial screening and the shortlisted options for maintenance dredging. The TACC asked if the dredge material had been assessed for hydrocarbons, heavy metals, insecticides and pesticides. TasPorts indicated that a sediment analysis plan will be developed covering these aspects of dredging operations.

3D modelling of sediment transport will be performed, which the contractor will use to write their dredge management plan before submitting it to the EPA for approval. The contractor will be responsible for continuously monitoring the upstream and downstream sites and indicators/triggers (e.g. turbidity levels) will be managed using a traffic light system. This system will use a series of escalating actions commencing with 'watch' (green), 'action required' (amber) e.g. reduce dredging activity and 'cease dredging activities' (red), e.g. if turbidity does not improve within the relevant EPA timeframe following the action.

Community communications. A communications and media plan has been developed, with periodic newsletters with project updates, in addition to continuous website and social media updates. The next phase of community consultation will involve a community briefing, tentatively planned for October or November, which will be focused on local issues of importance.

The next TACC meeting has been scheduled for Monday 19 September from 2:00pm – 3:30pm and will include a tour of the QuayLink project site.