

Dredging—Frequently asked questions

Why was dredging required?

Dredging works were required to create a minimum clear depth of 10.5 metres for large cruise ships to be able to berth in Eden once the wharf extension is complete. The dredging contract also included fabrication and installation of concrete scour-protection mattresses to protect the existing wharf and its extension from the turbulence created by cruise ship propulsion systems.

Who undertook the dredging?

The dredging contract was awarded to Heron Construction Company Ltd, an experienced operator in Australia and New Zealand.

When were dredging works undertaken?

Dredging commenced in September 2017 and was completed in November 2017. Dredging and offshore disposal activities were undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with noise and water quality monitoring in place to ensure compliance with the project's permits and approvals. Installation of scour protection was undertaken between November 2017 and February 2018.

Who approved the dredging works?

Development consent was provided by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment, and an Environment Protection Licence was issued by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The Port of Eden Harbour Master also authorised the works. All dredging and disposal of dredge material was undertaken in accordance with the National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging 2009, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*, Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ARMCANZ 2000), and state legislation.

What was the location of the dredging?

Dredging was undertaken in the Port of Eden, Snug Cove/Two-fold Bay.

How much material was removed?

Approximately 210,000 m³ of material was dredged from Snug Cove. A significant amount of debris was also recovered from the seabed and disposed of at an accredited waste facility.

What happened to the material after it was dredged?

The dredged material was disposed of at a dedicated offshore disposal site, approximately six nautical miles east of Two-fold Bay, at approximately 60 m depth. The disposal location was used previously by the naval wharf dredging program and is regulated by the Commonwealth Government under the *Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*.

What equipment was used?

Heron used a backhoe dredge, the 'Machiavelli'. The dredge excavated the material and placed it into accompanying split hopper barges that were towed by tugs from Pacific Tug. When each barge was at capacity, the tug towed it out to the offshore disposal site. The two hopper barges operated on a rotational basis (one being filled, while one is being emptied).

What happens now dredging has finished?

As dredging and scour protection works have now been completed, work on stage two, Marine Structures, has started. The scope of work for stage two includes:

- extending the existing wharf by approximately 95 metres
- installing three mooring dolphins and two berthing dolphins
- installing onshore mooring bollards on the existing wharf
- upgrading existing services such as lighting, power and potable water and emergency fire-fighting water
- installing navigation aids.

Currently, the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2019, weather permitting.

When will the Breakwater Wharf be reopened?

The Breakwater Wharf officially closed to the public and port users on 12 August 2017 and will be reopened when the project is completed in mid-2019. The mooring jetty and multi-purpose jetty can still be used by the public. Further information is available from the Port of Authority of New South Wales:

<https://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au/port-of-eden/>

Will boats still be able to enter the port of Eden?

Yes. A Public Notice to Mariners was issued on 14 July 2017, which advised vessel operators to exercise caution when navigating in the vicinity and not to attempt berthing alongside the Breakwater Wharf. Further information is available from the Port of Authority of New South Wales:

<https://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au/port-of-eden/>

Vessel operators should also note that there is a 50 m exclusion zone around the Breakwater Wharf.

Will cruise ships visit Eden during construction?

Yes. Cruise ships will continue to visit Eden during construction, with their tenders using the T- jetty east of the Breakwater Wharf for passenger transfer.

How can I find out more about the project?

Further information about the project can be obtained by:

- Telephone: 1800 960 877
- Email: eden.wharf@industry.nsw.gov.au
- Mail: PO Box 343 Eden NSW 2551
- Web: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/major-projects/infrastructure/eden>