

West Crab Island dredging key to north-south connection

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The Palaszczuk Government is supporting the Gold Coast's great lifestyle, in maintaining access for Paradise Point boaties.

A \$1.25 million dredging program will get underway meaning jet skiers, boaties and commercial operators travel through the channel between Paradise Point and Sovereign Island.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey announced the works, which would mean more Queenslanders could enjoy the Gold Coast's pristine waterways.

"The Palaszczuk Government knows it's the sun, sand and surf that people love about the Gold Coast, so maintaining that connection to the water is so important," Minister Bailey said.

"We're committed to these waterways being safe, sustainable and beautiful, and this dredging campaign is a great example of that commitment in action.

"It comes as part of a \$12.3 million investment in Gold Coast's waterways over four years, through the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Waterways Management Program.

"I'm sure this will come as good news to avid fishers, local business operators and boaties who enjoy the Paradise Point, Ephraim Island and Sovereign Island areas.

Minister Bailey said the dredging was a timely response to the Gold Coast's growing waterways destination reputation.

"As the Gold Coast's population rises, so too does the need to maintain the iconic blue waterways," he said.

"The Waterways Management Program also includes an additional \$5 million to be spent each year over the next four years, further lifting the Authority's capacity to deliver dredging, marine infrastructure projects, maintenance on the Sand Bypass System, and more."

GCWA Chief Executive Officer Chris Derksema said the Gold Coast Waterways Strategy 2021-2030 continually informed the planning that goes into achieving the best outcomes from waterways projects.

"The West Crab Island Channel (North) dredging will focus on the levelling and dredging of sand shoaling identified in recent hydrographic surveys, with some 23,000 cubic metres of sand to be removed and reused," Mr Derksema said.

"By placing the sand at the Narrowneck deposition site, we not only remove the sediment from the channel network, but we provide additional coastal protection for the City of Gold Coast.

"It also consolidates on our significant dredging work which saw 30,000 cubic metres of sand removed from the channel's south end in 2020, supporting access to marinas, manufacturing precincts, service centres and the canals to the west of the channel."

There will be some minor restrictions in the waterway during the dredging campaign. A trailer hopper dredge and bed leveller will be operating in the channel, which may at times restrict vessel access during the works period. Further details on the West Crab Island Channel North dredging project can be found on the GCWA website.



The services to be delivered under the granted funding between 2022-2026 are:

- Maintenance (Operational) Dredging
- Major Sand Bypass System Maintenance
- Marine Infrastructure and Destinations
- Management and Maintenance of Trustee Land Reserves
- Depreciation – Spit Master Plan new assets.

More information about GCWA's Waterways Management Program 2022-2026 is available online.

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