

NEW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOLD COAST WATERWAYS

15 November 2023

- Waterways Management Program announced for the Gold Coast, with \$10.3M investment committed for 2023-2024 financial year.
- Infrastructure upgrades, dredging of main navigational channels and a new vessel for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority will improve access and safety on the Gold Coast waters.
- A new Place Strategy and continued hydrographic research will be undertaken to ensure effective and sustainable management of waterways.
- Celebrating 10 years since being established, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority is looking forward to delivering this new program with the community, industry and partner agencies.

\$37.87 million will be invested in construction and upgrade projects that will improve access to the Gold Coast waterways over the next four years.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, has announced the Palaszczuk Government's approval of the new Gold Coast Waterways Management Program 2023-2027, outlining an ongoing pipeline of marine infrastructure projects to be delivered by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA).

With a decade of success managing Gold Coast waterways, GCWA will deliver a program centred around boating and marine infrastructure, installation of aids to navigation, a new vessel for operational works, dredging of navigation channels, as well as operations and maintenance of the Sand Bypass System.

Gold Coast Waterways Management Program projects to be delivered in the 2023-2024 financial year include upgrades of busy and popular boating facilities, such as replacement of the Tallebudgera and Isle of Capri boat ramps, as well as a \$1.4M contribution to the upgrade of the Muriel Henchman Park pontoon and boat ramps as part of The Spit Master Plan implementation at Main Beach.

This month a major maintenance and renewal program of 27 aids to navigation commenced to improve navigational access for recreational and commercial vessels to the Gold Coast waterways, while the ongoing upgrades and maintenance of the Sand Bypass System will continue to assist with removing the deposited sand from the Gold Coast Seaway.

Operational capability of the GCWA will be boosted by the design and construction of a new, 12-metre-long vessel. This vessel will replace an existing outdated vessel and will be used for waterways monitoring, pollution response and maintenance of navigational aids.

The announced program of works also includes plans for dredging North Channel and South Channel to be undertaken by the GCWA this financial year, while Coomera River and Canaipa Passage dredging have been budgeted for in the outer financial years.



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Recognising the importance of sustainable development and building resilience to climate change, GCWA will develop a Place Strategy to enhance community connection, diversity of use and public accessibility to the Gold Coast waterways. The new data and research-backed strategy will be developed in consultation with the community and in cooperation with the City of Gold Coast.

Visit the GCWA website to find out more about its 10-year Strategy and Gold Coast Waterways Management Program 2023-2027.

Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey:

“With the Gold Coast being one of the fastest growing cities in the country, we need to keep pace with demand for access to the waterways network in the area.”

“A strong pipeline of projects included in the Gold Coast Waterways Management Program 2023-2027 will see infrastructure delivered where it is most needed.”

“These projects will significantly increase the usability of popular marine facilities and allow more locals and visitors to experience the incredible Gold Coast waterways and enjoy our great lifestyle.”

“Congratulations to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority on celebrating ten years of managing our Gold Coast waterways, which contribute \$770 million to regional economy through tourism, recreation and marine industries supporting thousands of jobs.

Quotes attributable to the CEO of GCWA Chris Derksema:

“The announced Waterways Management Program reflects our commitment to the realisation of the vision for a ‘Waterways City,’ where sustainable and effective waterways management benefit the community, economy and the environment.”

“Over the past ten years, engagement with our community, industry and partner agencies has been vital for the successful implementation our programs, and we’ll continue to collaborate with them to deliver this program and ensure the best use of the Gold Coast waterways.’

“In our delivery of the Gold Coast Waterways Management Program we will remain focussed on improving access, connections and destinations, applying best environmental practices and aligning it to our Gold Coast Waterways Strategy 2021-2030.”

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