



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Upgrade sparks Sand Bypass System improvements

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### High voltage switchgear work to enhance efficiency and safety of vital Gold Coast infrastructure

High voltage switch gear which keeps the Gold Coast's Sand Bypass System pumping is about to undergo a major upgrade.

Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) has awarded a \$1.2 million contract for the work to locally based firm, TEW Solutions.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, said the investment was vital because the Sand Bypass System supports safe, navigable access to the Gold Coast Seaway and coastal inland waterways network.

'This network is a lifeline for the marine, tourism and recreation industries and the thousands of Gold Coast jobs they support.

'We need to ensure the Sand Bypass System continues to work efficiently and safely now, and into the future to keep that lifeline open.'

Mr Bailey said the upgrade works are expected to generate about 12 direct and indirect jobs over the next few months.

CEO Hal Morris said the Sand Bypass System has been reliably pumping sand north and helping keep the Seaway open for boaties for more than 30 years, relying on the same high voltage switching gear installed back in the late 1980s.

'It's done a great job but it's reaching the end of its natural life so it's time for us to upgrade it in line with modern operational and safety standards.'

'This project builds on other investments we've recently made to improve the System's operations including strengthening the jetty decking to support bigger maintenance cranes and the installation of solar panels to meet daytime electricity needs.'

Chris Griffiths from TEW Solutions said they're proud to be chosen to work with GCWA to bring the Sand Bypass System up to latest compliance and safety standards.

'The Sand Bypass System is such an icon of the Gold Coast and an important part of supporting local tourism and protecting the local environment.

'TEW Solutions' focus will be ensuring the safety, reliability and longevity of this important piece of infrastructure '

The Sand Bypass System was the first of its kind in the world and is designed to transport 500,000 cubic metres of sand from The Spit to South Stradbroke Island each year. Ongoing improvements saw it pump almost 661,000 cubic metres along the coastline last financial year.

The high voltage upgrade will also support the City of Gold Coast's Sand Backpassing project which proposes to connect a pipe into the Sand Bypass System to pump sand south to the beaches around Surfers Paradise to build resilience to storm surges and erosion.

The upgrade to the high voltage switchgear is expected to be finished in August this year.

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