

MEDIA RELEASE

# DREDGING UNDERWAY TO MAINTAIN ACCESS THROUGH THE GOLD COAST WATERWAYS

28 March 2024

**Continued access to Gold Coast navigation channels underpinned by \$1.75M dredging project.**

The Gold Coast Waterways Authority (GCWA) is maintaining access and connections to the waterways by dredging the North Channel and South Channel between the Sundale Bridge and Ephraim Island.

A major dredging campaign has commenced this month, to ensure continued access to the Gold Coast's waterways for all those who use and enjoy them, including visitors, local residents and the marine industry.

Maintenance of the North and South Channels will benefit boaties, renewing access through Gold Coast waters and the destinations along them.

Approximately 70,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand is expected to be removed from the North and South Channels.

The dredged sand will be beneficially reused to nourish Broadwater beaches and deposited offshore for coastal protection purposes at South Stradbroke Island.

The dredging campaign of the North and South Channels is expected to conclude in June 2024.

**Quotes attributable to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Chief Executive Officer, Chris Derksema:**

'Connecting the Gold Coast's waterways network to the ocean is vital for the commercial and recreational vessels that are coming to the Gold Coast.'

'Many industries contributing to the Gold Coast economy and supporting local jobs rely on safe and navigable access on the water.'

'Regular dredging campaigns delivered by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority ensure the iconic Gold Coast waterways are maintained and ready to welcome the increasing number of vessels.'

'GCWA is committed to maintaining open and safe access for all waterways users.'

'The navigation channel network is constantly shaped by our weather, and our waterways are dynamic. This is why GCWA proactively delivers regular dredging campaigns.'

'A dredge vessel will be operating in the North and South Channels between March and June, with some access restrictions possible. Therefore, we ask vessel masters to reduce speeds and navigate with care.'

Visit [gcwa.qld.gov.au](http://gcwa.qld.gov.au) for information on our projects and initiatives.

**ENDS**

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