

A DECADE OF SUCCESS PATHS WAY FOR A NEW WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

11 September 2024

- Waterways Management Program announced for the Gold Coast, with \$10.7 million investment committed for 2024-2025 financial year.
- Infrastructure upgrades, dredging of navigational channels and dredging the Wave Break Island keyhole for the first time will improve access and safety of the waterways.
- The Sand Bypass System entire structure will be re-painted for the first time in 38 years to ensure this asset continues to maintain critical navigational access to the ocean via the Seaway.
- Gold Coast Waterways Authority is looking forward to delivering this new program with the community, industry, and partner agencies.

An investment program of \$42.1 million dollars of critical projects and services over the next four years by Gold Coast Waterways Authority will continue to enhance access, ensure safety, and improve destinations within the Gold Coast waterways.

For over a decade, Gold Coast Waterways Authority has provided access, connections, and great destinations within the 170 kilometres of navigable Gold Coast waterways, with this year's program providing a 9 percent increase in investment compared to last year's four-year program.

Dredging of several key navigation channels including the Coomera River and the South Wave Break Island Channel will maintain navigational access for boaties on our waterways.

The Wave Break Island Keyhole will be dredged for the first time to expand the western anchorage, improving access to this popular destination in the southern Broadwater.

To continue to improve waterway connectivity and safety, a speed limit review at the South Channel, southern Broadwater and ongoing major sign and vessel improvements are planned.

As part of a range of upgrades to jetties and boat ramps across the Gold Coast, the Broadwater Parklands floating walkways will be upgraded and repairs will be undertaken on the boat ramp.

The Santa Barbara boat ramp on the Coomera River, Hope Island, will also receive an upgrade, ensuring that these important community boating facilities support boaties and allowing our waterways to be enjoyed.

Increased funding for capital upgrades and preventative maintenance of the Sand Bypass System has been secured, with a full re-paint of the jetty to be undertaken. Additionally, critical parts of the Sand Bypass System will be replaced, including the guide rails that play a critical role in holding the sand pumps on the seafloor.

Recognising the importance of planning for the future of the waterways, the development and implementation of the Waterways Place Strategy continues. This project will help shape what our waterways will look like and how we can enjoy them into the future.



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Future projects that have been identified in the outer financial years include various dredging projects, infrastructure upgrades, maintenance projects and strategic initiatives.

Visit the Gold Coast Waterways Authority website to find out more about the Waterways Management Program 2024-2028.

Quotes attributable to the CEO of GCWA Chris Derksema:

“The 2024-2028 Waterways Management Program continues to build on a decade of success and reflects our commitment to sustainable and effective waterways management and deliver safe, accessible waterways.”

“While developing this investment program, our focus was to support recreational boating and marine infrastructure development, to undertake dredging to maintain navigable channels, and to effectively operate the Sand Bypass System. While keeping these critical core areas in focus, we are also ensuring we plan effectively for the future of our waterways with the development of the Waterways Place Strategy.”

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