

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

<b>Attention</b>	Mr Nathan Kent – Chief Executive Officer
<b>Organisation</b>	T-Ports Pty Ltd
<b>From</b>	Michael Richardson
<b>Reviewed by</b>	Kirsten Falt
<b>Subject</b>	Lucky Bay Dredging – 2024 Campaign – Stakeholder and Community Engagement
<b>Date</b>	12 March 2024
<b>Job No.</b>	53492

### BACKGROUND

T-Ports commenced grain export operations from the Lucky Bay Harbour in early-2020. The facility operates on the basis of transshipment where low-draught barges ship materials to ocean-going vessels moored in designated transshipment points off the coast. Throughout this period ongoing maintenance dredging has been required to maintain channel depth.

To enable T-Ports to operate the facility at full capacity, an extension to the existing channel is required. In October 2022 the State Commission Assessment Panel approved a Development Application by T-Ports to extend the shipping channel to the Lucky Bay Harbour, comprising the capital dredging of up to 60,000 cubic metres of marine sediment, including live seagrass meadow. The approval allows for the existing 500-metre-long channel to be extended by a further 900 metres into the Spencer Gulf.

Subsequent to the approval being granted T-Ports held further discussions with the Environment Protection Authority ('EPA') and the Department for Environment and Water ('DEW') regarding dredge methodology, dewatering and dredge disposal options to ensure that risks associated with the project are managed to minimise harm to the environment.

Following these discussions, a further Development Application was lodged with the State Planning Commission in May 2023, to vary the existing consent to allow for dewatering on land at two (2) sites located to the west and north-west of the existing harbour. Dredging material is to be disposed of inland at a former quarry site. The proposal did not seek to modify the configuration of the channel previously approved.

T-Ports sought and obtained a licence (Licence Number 51623) under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* to commence capital dredging. T-Ports already held a licence for maintenance dredging of the existing channel (Licence Number 50759).





A dredging campaign was undertaken between September 2023 and November 2023, during which a portion of the approved dredging was undertaken. Dredging ceased by 30 November 2023, with no dredging undertaken over the summer period, permitting recovery of the live seagrass meadows.

As the approved (and required) dredging was not completed by the 30 November 2023 shutdown, T-Ports has sought an amendment to conditions of Development Approval to allow dredging to recommence on or after 1 April 2024, and proceed until 31 October 2024. A revised Dredge Management Plan, pursuant to the EPA licences will shortly be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to mobilisation and dredging recommencing.

Pursuant to licence conditions, T-Ports undertook stakeholder and community engagement prior to the commencement of dredging operations in 2023. The outcomes of that engagement were recorded in the Stakeholder and Community Consultation Report – Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project (MasterPlan, July 2023). Pursuant to the original Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (MasterPlan, May 2023), and as agreed with the EPA, T-Ports will undertake further engagement prior to the 2024 dredging campaign commencing.

This memo sets out the approach to the stakeholder and community engagement prior to the 2024 dredging campaign commencing.

## **ENGAGEMENT CONTEXT**

The 2024 dredging campaign represents a continuation of the implementation of the previously approved campaign, following a period of shutdown required for environmental (recovery of live seagrass meadows), economic and amenity reasons.

The 2023 campaign proceeded well, with feedback received from stakeholders and the community summarised in the Stakeholder and Community Consultation Report – Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project (MasterPlan, July 2023). Key issues and concerns raised during the consultation process included:

- Coastal Environment (Marine Water and Sediment, Coast Processes).
- Nature conservation (sensitive environmental area, terrestrial flora and fauna, marine flora and fauna).
- Air quality (dust, fumes and odour), noise.
- Social.
- Economy.

All concerns raised were adequately responded to by the project team, with the key interaction experienced during the 2023 dredging campaign with T-Ports own grain export operations.



In determining an appropriate level of engagement for the 2024 campaign, it is recognised that there is a higher level of community awareness and understanding of the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project than was the case prior to the 2023 dredging campaign. It is therefore proposed that the engagement related to the 2024 dredging campaign be focused on communicating the timing and operational characteristics of the campaign, with a focus on the identified stakeholders and those who interacted with the previous engagement process.

## **ENGAGEMENT APPROACH**

As outlined in the Stakeholder and Community Consultation Report – Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project (MasterPlan, July 2023), the engagement objectives for the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project included:

- Establishing positive, proactive and transparent engagement with key stakeholders and broader community.
- Proactively engaging key stakeholders and broader community to build awareness of the project, its progress, including management of identified issues as addressed in the Development Application and EPA authorisation (licence).
- Identifying primary areas of key stakeholder and community interest and working with stakeholders and the community to address interests through engagement methods, content and communication.
- Engaging stakeholders and the broader community during the EPA authorisation (licence) process by briefing key stakeholders, making supporting information available, providing opportunities for people to talk to specialists and answering stakeholder questions in a timely manner.
- Delivering effective, transparent and authentic communications to potentially impacted and interested community members and groups throughout the dredging period and supporting them during these works.

The following communication tools will be utilised in the engagement prior to the 2024 dredging campaign:

### **Letter to Community**

A letter advising of the recommencement of the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project will be prepared and distributed electronically to key stakeholders and the community. The letter will provide updated information about the project and invite engagement on project activities with T-Ports directly. The letter will be provided to all previously identified stakeholders and those who interacted with the previous engagement process.



## **Community Information Sheet**

The information sheet which was produced prior to the initial engagement, which contained detailed information about the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project, will be updated to reflect the progress of the dredging undertaken in 2023 and the proposed timing and operational characteristics of the 2024 campaign. The information sheet will be distributed to stakeholders electronically along with the letter to community. Distribution to the community will include the same approach to direct distribution to shack occupants and distribution to the Lucky Bay Shack Owners Association which has been utilised in previous campaigns.

## **Community Feedback Form**

A Community Feedback Form will again be provided with the letter to the community and will also be replicated as a webform available for on the project webpage (<https://tports.com/dredging/>).

## **Project Hotline and Email**

Both 1800 phone number (1800 876 787) and project email address ([admin@tports.com](mailto:admin@tports.com)) were established as key communication channels prior to the 2023 dredging campaign. These contact details will continue to be promoted on all Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project communication materials and remain active and available to stakeholders and the community.

## **Traditional and Social Media**

Details of the 2024 dredging campaign will be published in the Eyre Peninsula Tribune to inform the broader community of the recommencement of the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project, and the project contact details (1800 number, project email address and web link). Inclusion in the Eyre Peninsula Tribune will ensure that the broader community is informed of activities, and avenues to engage with T-Ports regarding the campaign.

Key information will also be distributed via the District Council of Franklin Harbour Facebook page and T-Ports Facebook and Instagram pages.

## **Website**

A webpage was prepared for the Lucky Bay Channel Extension Project prior to the 2023 dredging campaign. This webpage informed stakeholders of the upcoming community consultation activities and provides contact details and access to the Lucky Bay Channel Extension project site plans and project information (<https://tports.com/dredging/>). This webpage remains live and will be updated with reference to the recommencement of dredging in 2024.



## **STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION**

The following stakeholders were engaged during the engagement program prior to the 2023 dredging campaign. It is proposed that the Letter to the Community, Community Information Sheet and Feedback Form will be distributed to these stakeholders, and to the database held by T-Ports of participants in the community drop-in sessions, and via Community Feedback Forms and email prior to the 2023 dredging campaign (removing any duplicates).

### ***Regulators***

- Coast Protection Board, Department for Environment and Water.
- Environment Protection Authority.

### ***Local Government Authority***

- District Council of Franklin Harbour.
- Elected Members, District Council of Franklin Harbour.
- Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association.
- Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula.

### ***State Elected Representatives***

- State Member for Flinders.
- State Member for Giles.
- State Member for Stuart.
- State Member for Narungga.

### ***Federal Elected Representatives***

- Federal Member for Grey.

### ***Business and Industry Groups (Including Commercial Fishers)***

- Blue Crab Pot Fishers Association Inc.
- Clean Seas Sustainable Seafood.
- Marine Fishers Association.
- Spencer Gulf & West Coast Prawn Fisherman's Association.



### ***Recreational Groups (Including Fishers and Other Recreational Users)***

- Recfish SA.

### ***Community / Special Interest Groups***

- Lucky Bay Shack Owners Association (LBSOA).
- Broader local community.

### ***Traditional and Social Media***

- Eyre Peninsula Advocate.
- T-Ports Instagram and Facebook pages.

## **ENGAGEMENT TIMING**

The engagement is proposed to be undertaken in the week commencing 18 March 2024. T-Ports invites community and stakeholder feedback on the dredging on an ongoing basis, so the request of any feedback is noted proposed to have an end date.

## **SUMMARY**

This memorandum details T-Ports approach to community and stakeholder engagement prior to the 2024 dredging campaign. Following internal review, this memo was provided to the EPA in draft form, and subsequent to feedback from the EPA has now been finalised.

In its current, final form, the memo will guide the implementation of the engagement program.