

COMMERCIAL BULLETIN

Welcome to Issue 8 of MAST's Commercial Bulletin

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

MAST manages and maintains 328 aids to navigation around the State. These aids include larger landfall lights, buoys and piles. These aids are maintained under a strict contract in accordance with principles of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

Most aids are serviced every two years with some more critical aids serviced annually. Australian Maritime Systems recently completed the routine service of aids to navigation in the far South and South-West of the State including Low Rocky Point, Acteon Island, Fisher Point, Whalers Point at Port Davey.



Low Rocky Point

Works included servicing, lantern replacements where necessary and vegetation clearance to ensure the lights are not obscured and helicopters can land safely at the next service or if a breakdown requires rectification.

The recent works also included the installation of a replacement aid on Shag Rock in Recherche Bay.

GEORGES BAY DREDGING

The regular agitation of the navigation channel at Pelican Point in Georges Bay continues with dredging occurring on a needs basis approximately three times annually. The channel is dredged when the depth decreases to below -2.5m (Chart Datum). Approximately 10-12 days of agitation is enough to increase the depth beyond the target minimum depth to the extent that it will remain deeper than the target for at least four months.

This is sufficient for the local fleet that home port at St Helens as well as deeper draft local and interstate trawlers that often offload catch in the port whilst they are working Commonwealth trawl grounds off the East Coast.

The most recent works were completed successfully in late May 2022.

MARINE RADIOS WITH DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING CAPABILITY

VHF marine radios with digital selective calling (DSC) capability have a design function that enables automatic channel switching to VHF channel 16 when a DSC distress alert is received. This design function complies with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Recommendation ITU-R M.493-13 (2009).

The wide use of VHF DSC means that VHF DSC alerts may cause a VHF DSC transceiver to switch voice channels unexpectedly. This could create a safety risk for the vessel during safety critical operations. Vessel operators should be aware that the automatic channel switching function can be disabled.

Since 2004, VHF DSC equipment has been built to allow for automatic channel switching to be disabled, so that essential communications during safety-critical operations can be maintained. Manufacturers implement the disabling feature in different ways, and usually include this in the user manual. If the user manual or documentation is not clear in this regard, advice from the supplier or service agent may need to be sought.

All VHF DSC equipment should provide a visual indication when the automatic switching function is disabled.

MAST reminds all commercial vessel operators of these issues and advises they should familiarise themselves with their specific equipment and ensure that they are operating on the correct working voice channel when using DSC capable VHF transceivers with automatic channel switching.



MAST FACILITIES UPDATE

Pirates Bay Jetty

The Pirates Bay Jetty and adjacent boat ramp platform have had recent maintenance works completed. This has included breakwater panel repairs to the Jetty, along with fender replacement and refixing. Further work is also scheduled at the wharf, including reinstating yellow clear zone markings, along with replacing missing timber walers.

Dover Jetty

Maintenance work is planned for Dover Jetty in June and will address the replacement of broken timber and fibreglass plastic (FRP) fenders, installation of a new fender assembly to the end of the middle finger pier and replacement of bottom walers from timber to long life FRP members.

Dunalley Jetty

The first stage of pile wrapping of 14 piles will take place in the coming months to the Dunalley Jetty with minor maintenance being undertaken currently to address stormwater issues at the abutment. Jetty information signage will also be installed to assist recreational and commercial vessels.

Expansion of CCTV Network

MAST is expanding the CCTV network at some of its facilities, with Margate Jetty, Port Arthur Jetty and Kettering Jetty expected to have CCTV coverage installed. The CCTV coverage assists MAST in monitoring usage of the facility. This expansion builds on the existing CCTV coverage that currently exists at Sullivans Cove Marina, Dover Jetty, Dunalley Jetty and Nubeena Jetty.

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