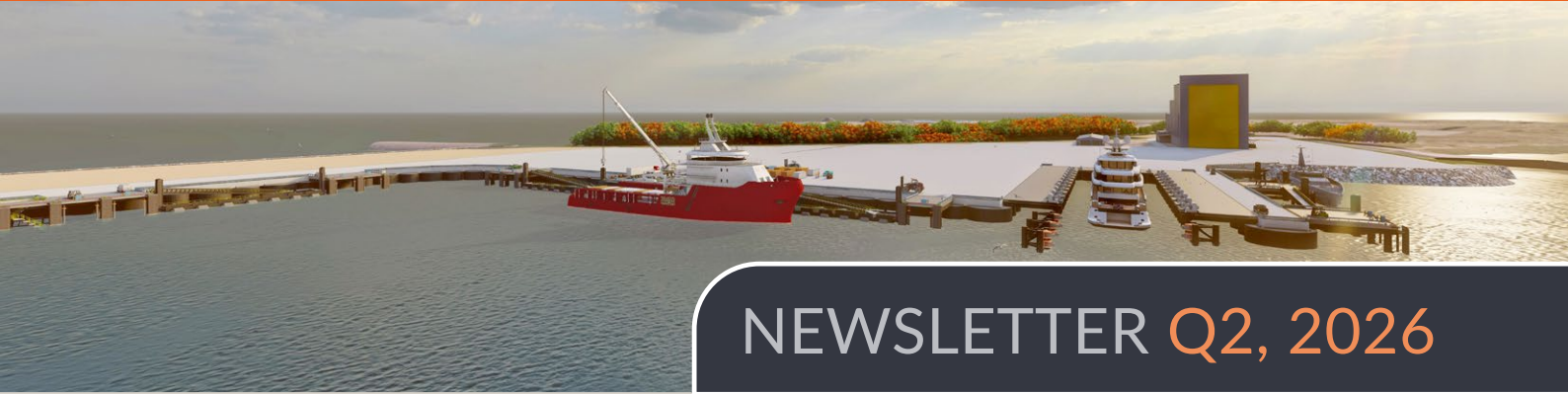


NORTHERN MARINE COMPLEX



NEWSLETTER Q2, 2026

The Northern Territory Government is delivering the Northern Marine Complex to create a purpose-built maritime precinct.

The Northern Marine Complex (NMC) spans 246 hectares of land and water at East Arm and includes the ship lift, which has a 5,500-tonne vessel lifting capacity, and is co-located with marine engineering, fabrication, logistics and specialist services.

The NMC allows multiple vessels to be dry-docked at the same time, enabling Darwin to service defence, commercial and international fleets across northern Australia and the Indo-Pacific.

This project newsletter shares key information on the first construction phase of the NMC.

The headstocks have been delivered to the construction site.



Project Update

Marine structures arrive on site

Large fabricated marine structures have been shipped to the construction site to build the wharf and wet berth structures.

The marine structures include 10 headstocks, which are large steel structures that will sit on top of the caissons and support the wharves and wet berths.

Three shipments of fabricated structures weighing 1785 tonnes in total have arrived so far, with the large headstock components weighing approximately 26 – 29 tonnes each.

The deliveries included 56 large structural components and equipment. See images and drone footage below showing the large structures on site.





Construction activity

The Northern Marine Complex has hit another milestone with more than 1 million hours worked to construct the project at East Arm in Darwin.

Head contractor Clough BMD Joint Venture reports a total of 493 people are currently working on the first phase of construction, including subcontractors, with 73% being local Territorians.

Work is progressing on several fronts as construction ramps up on site for the dry season.

Construction progress so far includes:

- marine piling continues with 52 of 186 tubular piles driven in total
- 39 of the 47 caissons required have been constructed to form the seawall of the complex
- 39 bored piles have been installed to form the foundations for the Blast and Paint Facility
- steel wall frames, plumbing and the electrical switchboard have been installed at the administration building
- steel wall framing, roofing and plastering continues on the security gatehouse building.

Construction activities started this quarter includes:

- earthworks to backfill behind the caissons to form the seawalls

- the Blast and Paint Facility building
- stormwater drainage works to manage stormwater for the site during operations
- steel reinforcement and concrete capping on the caissons.

Click on the image below to watch drone footage of the construction progress or click on this link:
https://youtu.be/r7_5PRMLP4U



Ship lift and transfer systems

The first international shipment of custom-made self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs) have arrived in Darwin for the Northern Marine Complex project.

Designed by Pearlson Shiplift Corporation and manufactured by Cometto in Italy, the first batch of SPMTs arrived in late June. The SPMTs are specialised transporters that will move vessels between the ship lift platform, hardstands and dry berths within the facility.

Delivery of the SPMTs mark another major milestone for this nationally significant project, which is a catalyst for the Northern Territory's emerging marine industry.

Components that arrived this quarter include:

- wire rope assemblies shipped from the UK that will connect the ship lift platform with the hoist, which is the machine that raises and lowers the platform
- load cell pins arrived from the United States and will be used to register the load applied to each hoist assembly during a docking or undocking operation for vessels being lifted or lowered
- lower sheave units arrived from Vietnam and are a set of pulleys fixed to the ship lift platform and used to lower the platform in and out of the water during docking or undocking procedures.

Additional components are being manufactured, including the ship lift platform and additional SPMTs, and are expected to arrive in Darwin later this year.

Commercial activity

Clough-BMD Joint Venture awarded several subcontracts for the Blast and Paint Facility and washdown bay, SPMT garage, trench drains, bored piling and electrical installation in the first half of 2026.

Procurement for several subcontractor packages are underway including the precast stormwater drainage, pavers, hydraulic services, concrete pavement, fabricated pontoons, marine fenders, diving services and security fencing.

For upcoming procurements email Clough-BMD Joint Venture at dsl.procurement@cloughbmdjv.com.au

FAST FACTS

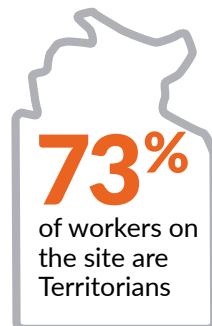


1million

hours worked in construction on the project

493 people

working to build the Northern Marine Complex, including subcontractors



73%
of workers on the site are Territorians

\$291 million

in subcontracts awarded to Territory businesses



Construction progress

52 of **186** marine piles installed

39 of the **47** caissons constructed

39 bored piles installed to form the foundations for the Blast and Paint Facility.

Image of a SPMT before it was shipped from Italy



Project spotlight

New 12-storey sized building for East Arm skyline

A multi-million dollar contract has been awarded to local company Duratec to build the Blast and Paint Facility, washdown bay, garage to house the self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs) and 2 buildings to accommodate the electricity intake substations.

Head contractor Clough-BMD Joint Venture has awarded a \$62 million subcontract to Duratec to build the Blast and Paint Facility and washdown bay. The Blast and Paint Facility is 90 metres long, 32 metres wide and 40 metres high – similar in height to a 12-storey building.

Designed to accommodate design vessels up to 90 metres in overall length, the Blast and Paint Facility will be one of the biggest buildings to be built in East Arm and will also form an integral part of the Northern Marine Complex.

Innovative features of the specialised building includes:

- the design creates a controlled environment with protection from the weather to allow year-round operations
- ventilation system is designed to replace air volumes inside the building 8 to 11 times per hour to maintain air quality in accordance with environmental regulations

- large size of the facility provides clearance between the sides of the design vessels and building to allow room for scaffolding, vehicle access and areas for plant and equipment
- design allows for blasting, painting and other maintenance activities to occur in the same area.

The SPMT building will garage all SPMT units and is about 72 metres long, 16 metres wide and 3.6 metres high, with an additional storage and maintenance area. The SPMTs are part of the vessel transfer system to move vessels to and from the lift platform and around the Northern Marine Complex.

Delivered through Duratec's Darwin branch, which employs about 70 local staff, the new infrastructure will support local employment opportunities and contribute to broader regional economic benefits. Duratec is expected to subcontract more than 16 Territory subcontractors and suppliers to deliver the different components of the contract.

The contract is included in the Northern Territory Government's overall budget allocation to construct the Northern Marine Complex.

Below is a concept image from a model showing the 40 metre tall Blast and Paint Facility (right) next to the SPMT shed (left).



Busy days on site

More than 700 individual site inspections have been conducted at the Northern Marine Complex site since the first phase of construction began in 2024.

A rotating team of about 12 dedicated team members are on site daily from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to monitor and check construction activity as it happens across the 16 hectare construction site.

The project team have been working on weekends and early mornings conducting inspections across the site for a range of construction activities, with just some examples including:

- bored piling
- marine piling
- concrete pours
- earthworks
- caisson construction
- general building construction
- electrical works
- services placement
- formwork for steel works
- trenching
- fill placement.

The team also undertake regular safety walks through the site for work health, safety and environment inspections.



Northern Marine Complex construction site progress



Inspections at the construction site

The project is giving the project team, which includes 8 engineers and 4 experienced construction project managers and officers, valuable experience in designing and constructing marine infrastructure on a potential once in a lifetime project.

Milestones

TIMEFRAME	PROJECT ACTIVITY
FEB 2026	Marine piling starts
APRIL 2026	First international shipments for the ship lift system arrive, including the wire rope assemblies and load cell pins
MAY 2026	Foundations started on Blast and Paint Facility
JUNE 2026	First batch of SPMTs arrive in Darwin from Italy
Q3 2026	Administration building to be completed
Q3 2026	Caisson installation to be completed
2026-27	Gain Defence Facility Qualification
2027	Northern Marine Complex to become operational in stages

Road access

Road trains continue to bring materials to the construction site with the route including the Arnhem Highway, Stuart Highway, Tiger Brennan Drive, Wishart Road and Berrimah Road.

The speed limit on Berrimah Road (adjacent the site) continues to be 40 km/h from the Common User Facility to the Darwin Port entrance. Road users are advised to slow down, take care and follow the traffic controls in place.

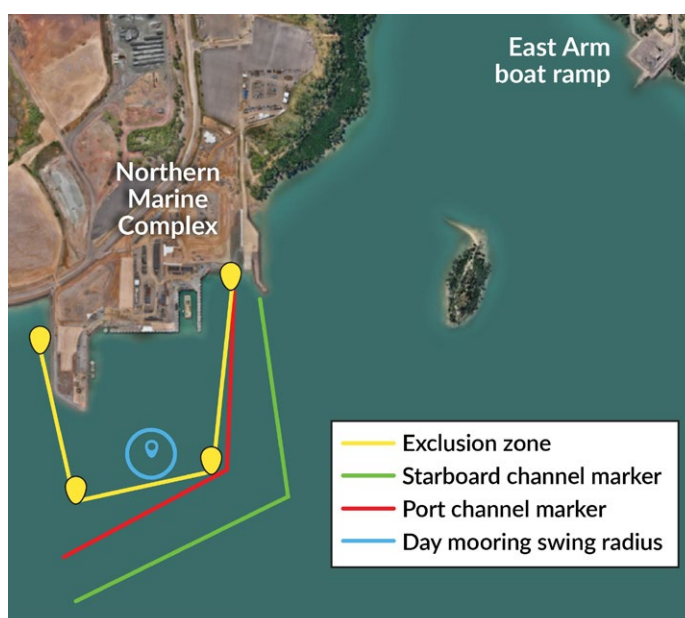
Works to install underground high voltage electrical infrastructure from the Wishart Zone Substation to the construction site are underway along Berrimah Road, primarily within the road reserve. The works include installing 2 water connections from the existing main to the site.

The works will be undertaken in stages with changed traffic conditions on this section of Berrimah Road, primarily within the road reserve. Speed reductions will be in place and temporary lane closures will be implemented during off-peak hours at various stages of the works. Road users are required to comply with all traffic management, signage and directions from traffic controllers.



Marine access

Caisson construction and marine piling continues in the marine construction activity zone around the site. Harbour users are directed not to enter the construction area marked by hazard markers (yellow buoys) and lights and keep well clear of marine support vessels and barges.



Contacts

For further project information contact **8936 5668** during business hours or email DHIP@nt.gov.au.

For construction, procurement or recruitment related queries please email Clough-BMD Joint Venture at:

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Click here to go to the project website