

Marine piling starts for ship lift facility

Marine piling is starting on the Darwin Ship Lift Facility in late February 2026.

The Northern Territory Government is delivering the ship lift facility project as part of the Northern Marine Complex to service defence, commercial and international vessels operating across northern Australia and the Indo-Pacific.

A total of 186 marine piles will be installed to support the ship lift system, wet berths, pontoons and navigation aids for the ship lift facility.

The tubular piles, which range in length from 17 to 33 metres, will take approximately 8 - 10 months to install by head contractor Clough-BMD Joint Venture (Clough-BMD JV) using specialised equipment.

The large marine piles, which are up to 900 mm in diameter, will be installed using a combination of an excavator equipped with a custom made pile guide on the landside and a crane barge on the marine side.

The marine piling will be undertaken in accordance with the project's environmental management plan and NT Environment Protection Authority requirements. Environmental monitoring will continue during the piling activity.

The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and Clough-BMD JV continue to work together to minimise any construction impacts on site. The following measures have been put in place to reduce impacts during piling operations:

- piling only undertaken during daylight hours to avoid lights on at night
- restriction of vessel speed limits during piling activities
- trained megafauna observers on duty during daylight piling operations
- appropriate exclusion zones and protocols in place if marine megafauna sighted in the project area
- soft start piling at the beginning of operations and can only to start if no megafauna spotted such as marine turtles, dugongs and dolphins.

A marine activity zone exists around the Darwin Ship Lift Facility and can be viewed at the [Notice to Mariners website](#).

Contacts



For further project information on the Darwin Ship Lift Facility and how potential environmental impacts are being managed visit the [website](#) or contact **8936 5668** during business hours or email DHIP.DIPL@nt.gov.au.

For construction related queries please contact Clough BMD Joint Venture at darwin.shiplift@cloughbmdjv.com.au.

Use the QR code to subscribe for updates on the Darwin Ship Lift Facility project