NORTHERN MARINE COMPLEX



NEWSLETTER Q3, 2026

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

The NMC features a ship lift with 5,500 tonne vessel lifting capacity 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 and progress on the first phase of construction of the NMC.

Project update

Final caisson installed

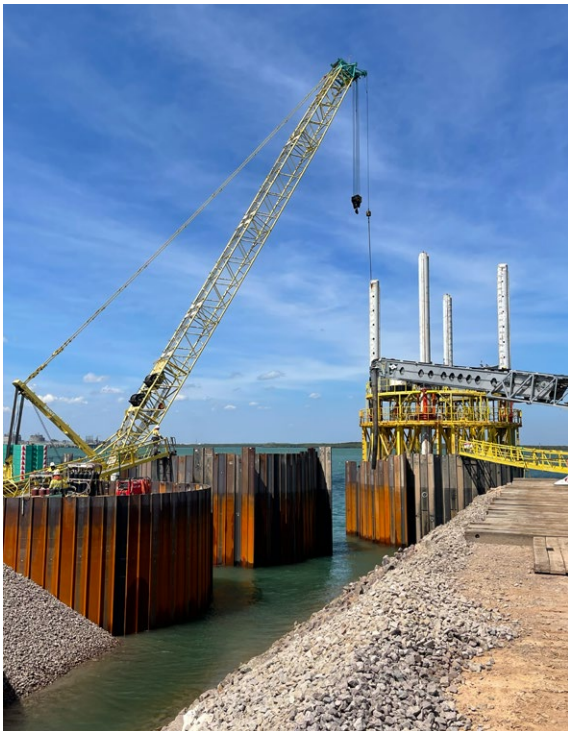
The Northern Marine Complex has hit another milestone with the final caisson installed to complete the project seawalls for the first stage of construction.

In total, 47 caissons were installed over a period of about 12 months.

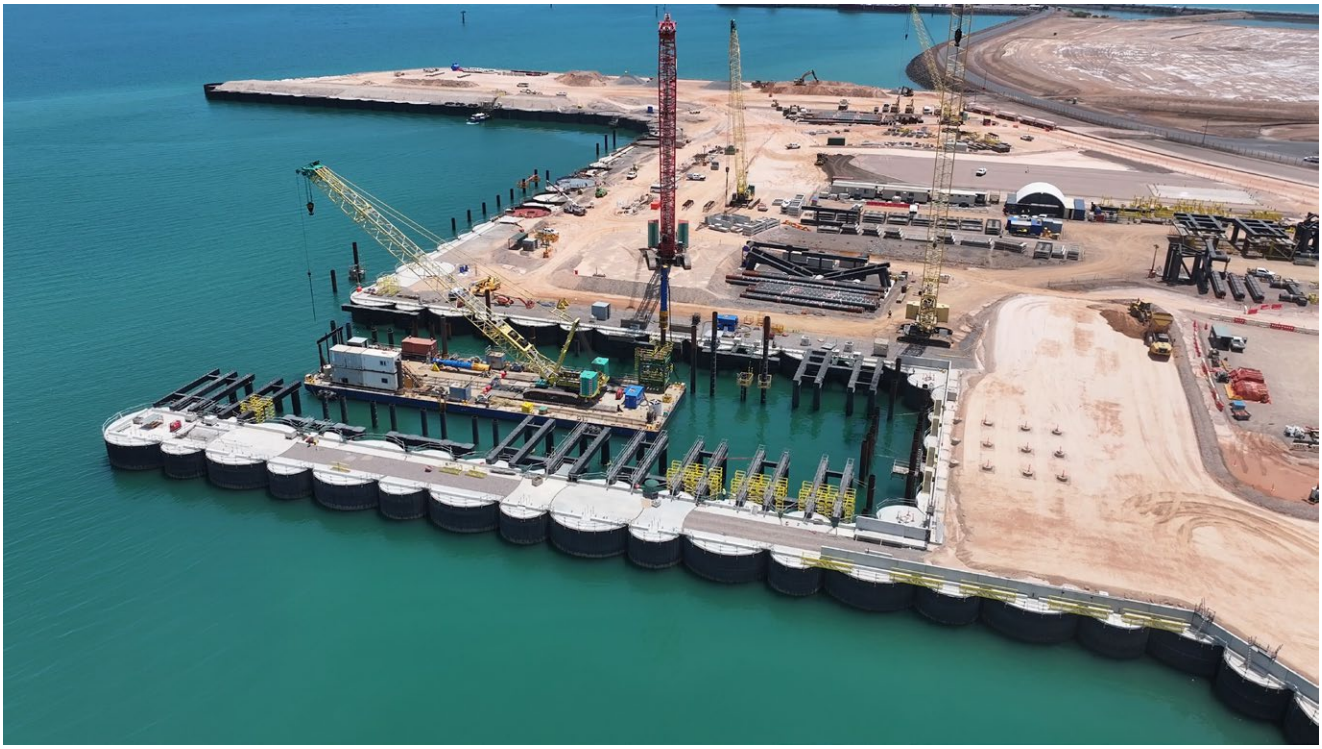
The caissons were built using a template that was lowered onto the sea floor and secured, then long lengths of sheet piles were inserted to create a circular structure with a hollow basin inside that is later filled with self-compacting rock backfill.

Work continues to progress in earnest on several fronts with:

- 120 of 186 tubular marine piles installed around the ship lift pocket and wet berths
- the Administration and Gatehouse buildings are progressing with final finishes
- large concrete 'L' walls, which are cantilevered retaining walls, are being installed to support pavement once more general fill is placed behind the L walls
- large headstocks are being installed to support the wharves and wet berths
- the electrical and water headworks project running parallel to Berrimah Road is approaching 60% complete.



An image of the final 47th caisson being constructed on site.



Progress of construction shows all 47 caissons installed to form the seawalls of the complex.



The headstocks installed on the tubular piles inside the ship lift pocket.

FAST FACTS

73% of workers on the site are Territorians

363 of the 498 people working on the project from the Territory, including subcontractors

$321 million in contracts awarded to Territory enterprises

1.2 million hours worked on the first construction phase of the project to date

22 trade apprentices and trainees are working on the project, including subcontractors



Drone image shows a blue SQID being installed in the bottom left corner of the image between the multi-user barge ramp and ship lift pocket.

Construction activity

"Biggest shed" in northern Australia

Construction of what is tipped to be the "biggest shed in northern Australia" is progressing with works continuing on site for the Blast and Paint Facility at the Northern Marine Complex.

A total of 39 bored piles have been installed to create the foundations for the facility, which at 90 metres long, 32 metres wide and 40 metres high is similar in height to a 12-storey building.

Stormwater and internal drainage works are underway along with preparations to store the precast components as they are brought onto site for construction.

Duratec has awarded work packages for the Blast and Paint Facility and washdown bay to local Territory businesses. Land Surveys will be providing site survey support while Regina's Cleaning Group Pty Ltd will be providing cleaning services during construction.

Large SQIDs installed to manage stormwater

Large, specialised containers the size of a small truck or car are being installed at the Northern Marine Complex to help manage stormwater on the site.

Five of the 9 large stormwater quality improvement devices (SQIDs) have been installed to contain and manage surface and wastewater on the site, including stormwater.

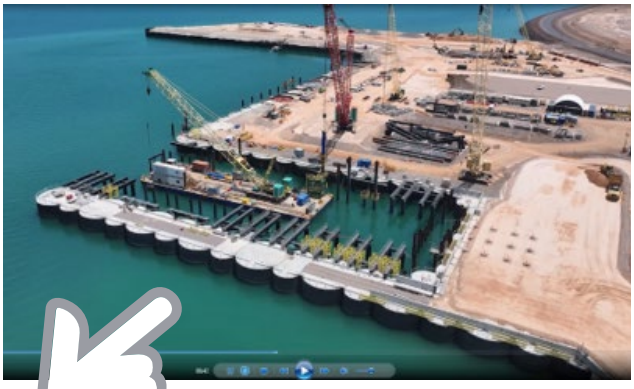
The 9 SQIDs are different sizes and will manage wastewater according to requirements with large stormwater pipes and drains channelling water from across the site before it is captured and filtered inside the SQID.

The complex stormwater management system captures and removes any rubbish, sediment or potential pollutants and stop them leaving the site.



Image of one of the large SQIDs before it is installed.





Click here to watch drone footage

Commercial activity

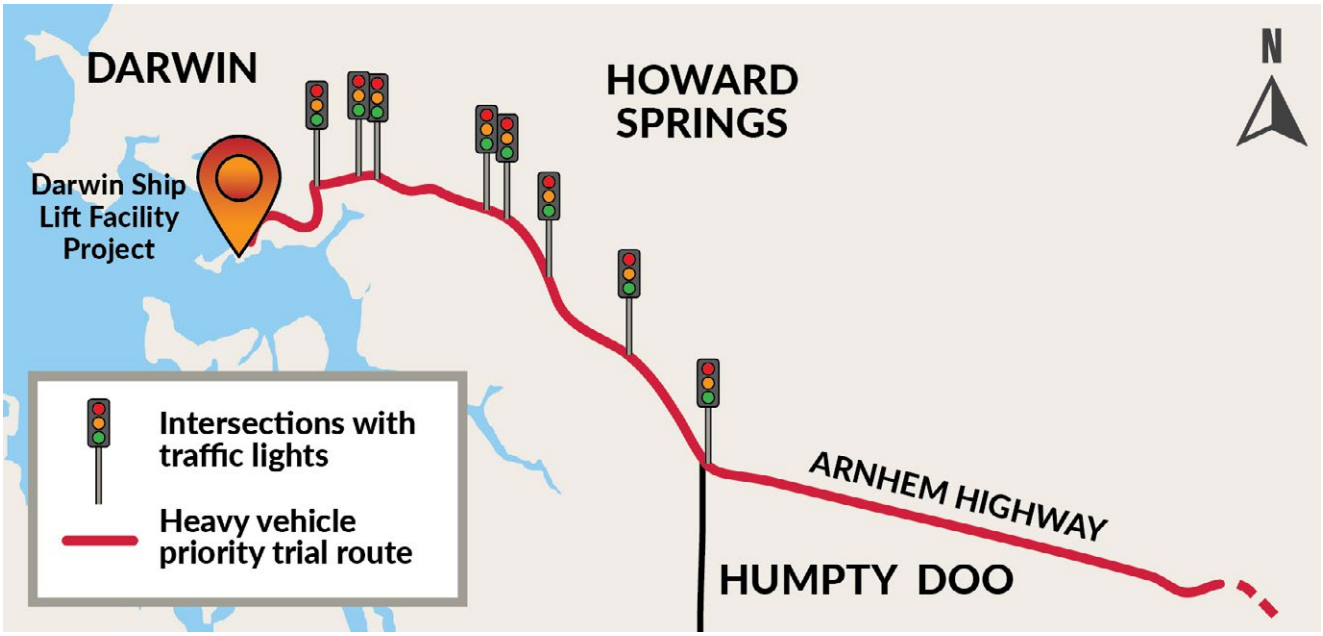
More than 40 Territory businesses have been awarded contracts to work on the first construction phase of the Northern Marine Complex.

The subcontracts are some of the work packages that have been awarded by the head contractor Clough BMD Joint Venture and the Northern Territory Government.

Totalling more than $321.9 million, the subcontracts have been awarded for a range of products and services including plant, goods and equipment, marine supply vessels, surveying, road sweeping, concrete supply, traffic control, quarry material, precast concrete elements and construction of the administration and gatehouse buildings, Blast and Paint Facility and washdown bay.

Procurement for several subcontractor packages are underway including the pavers, pile top drilling services, hydraulic services, road surfacing, concrete pavement, fabricated pontoons, marine fenders and diving services.

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



Project spotlight

Heavy vehicle trial saves time and money

Initial results from a Heavy Vehicle Priority System trial during the early construction phase of the Northern Marine Complex has shown it saved time and money for the project.

The priority system was designed to improve safety and reduce time delays and congestion for commuters and heavy vehicles while transporting rock, fill and pavement materials to the construction site at East Arm.

The trial began in 2024 when heavy vehicle movements started from extractive sites in the Greater Darwin area to East Arm.

GPS technology was used to enable the priority system to request a green traffic signal when a heavy vehicle is 2 minutes away from a traffic signal. This increases time efficiencies and reduces impact on road surfaces from multiple stops by keeping the heavy vehicles moving where possible.

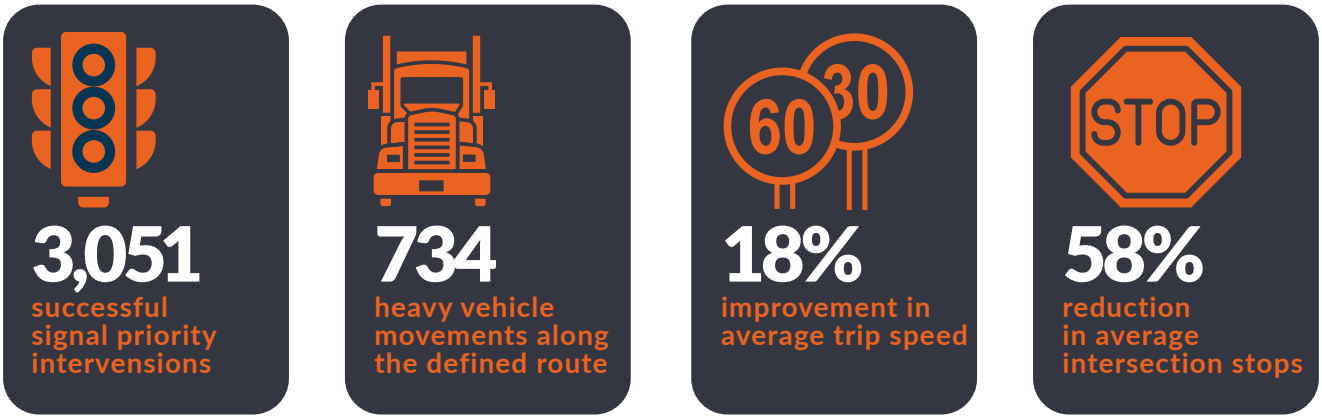
The idea came from the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure's Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Projects team and was implemented in collaboration with the Transport Civil Infrastructure team, Transmax and Micro Connect.

The results for the first 5 months of the trial delivered shorter travel times for trucks, reduced idling and resulted in smoother truck movements to the construction site.

The pilot recorded 734 truck movements with the priority system delivering:

- 3,051 green lights to heavy vehicles as traffic signal priority interventions
- average trip speeds improved by 18%
- trucks stopped 58% less times
- approximate cost savings of $60,000
- reduction in 15.4 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

The priority system contributed to improved safety by reducing braking and stop-start driving.



The system also saved more than 12,000 minutes of travel time over 5 months of the trial, equating to approximately 9.4 hours a week.

The Heavy Vehicle Priority System trial continues to operate and will be completed once transportation of fill is complete for the current construction stage of the project.

Michael gets on with the job

It has been a big 6 months on the job for Michael Cleary who is working as a trainee on the Northern Marine Complex (NMC) construction site.

Michael is one of 22 trainees and trade apprentices working on the first construction phase of the NMC after he joined Clough BMD Joint Venture's (JV) traineeship program in early 2026 through the head contractor's connections with the Clontarf Academy.

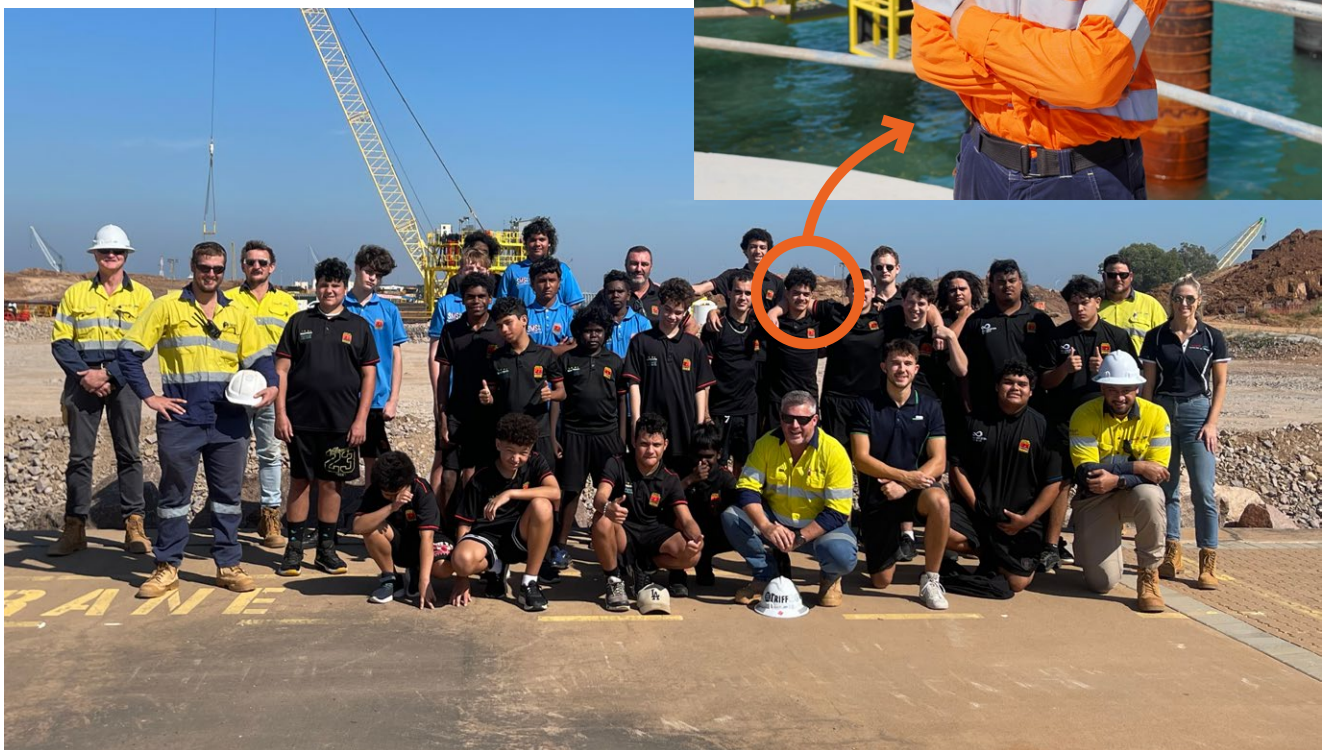
The 18-year-old was one of 25 students who first visited the NMC construction site in 2025 as part of an onsite tour for Clontarf students. Fast forward 9 months and Michael began his career in construction as a trainee with the Clough BMD JV working on the NMC.

Six months into his traineeship and Michael has now got his drivers licence and is working as a labourer in the civil team.

Keen to start getting his tickets to operate the range of machinery on site, Michael wants to start with a roller and then eventually move on to operate a digger – with his eyes set on a 50 tonne excavator.

Michael also supervises 2 part time, school based trainees on site. "I do a bit of everything, site maintenance, concreting and de-watering," he said. "I really like being on site and working as a labourer and it is nice to see the progress."





Clough BMD JV trainee Michael Cleary first visited the NMC on a Clontarf site tour in 2025 (circled orange below) that turned into a trainee opportunity in early 2026 and he now works as a labourer supervising other trainees.

A site to be seen

The Northern Marine Complex construction site is proving popular with industry with 4 recent site tours.

The site tours were organised for a range of key stakeholders including Defence, National Intermodal Corporation and Engineers Australia.

The Consul of Italy for Queensland and the Northern Territory Guiseppe Di Murro also visited the construction site in September to see the progress along with Honorary Consul of Darwin Carlo Randazzo.

Clough is owned by Webuild, an Italian company that specialises in building large infrastructure projects around the world and is part of the Clough BMD Joint Venture – the head contractor delivering the ship lift as part of the Northern Marine Complex.



The Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Projects team took members of Engineers Australia, including the national president, on a tour of the NMC construction site.

Road access

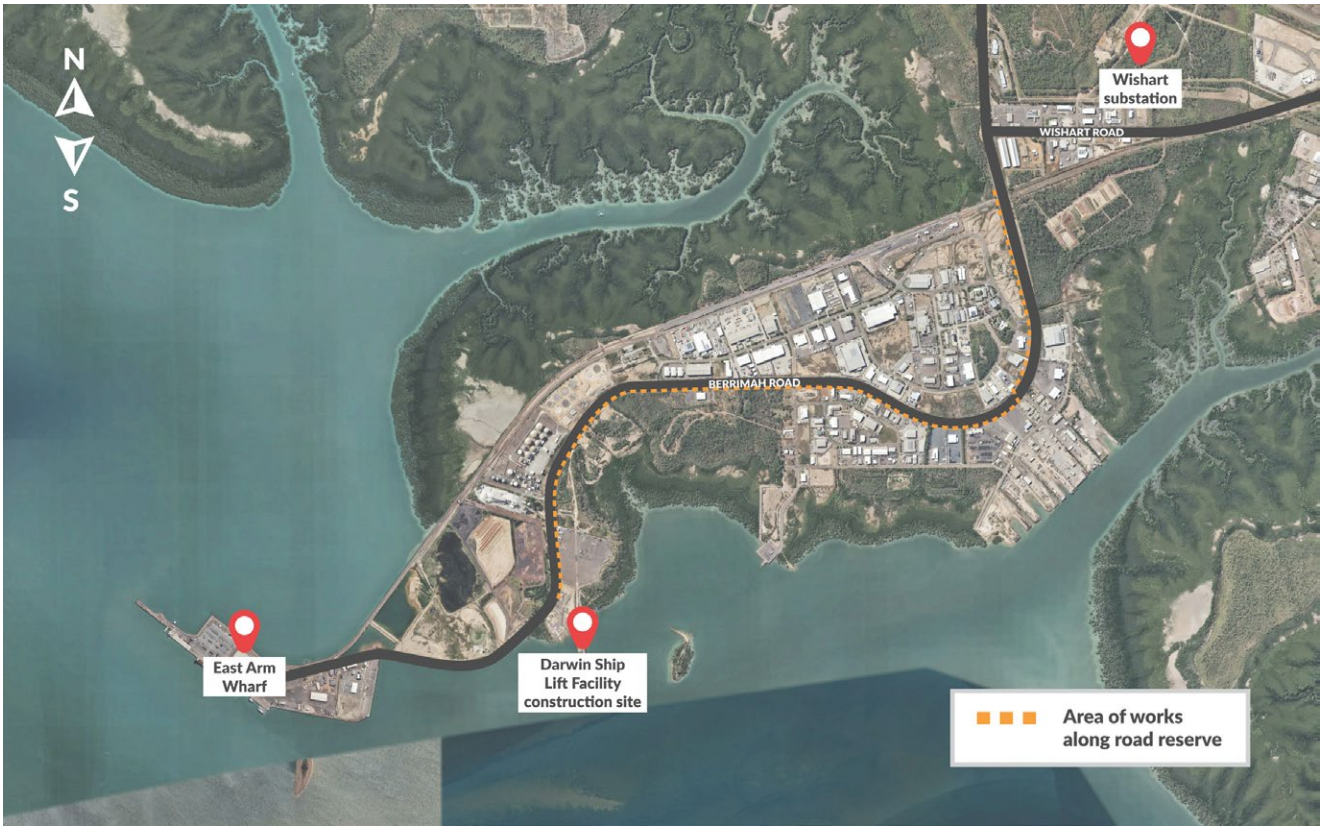
Road trains continue to bring materials to the Northern Marine Complex site with the route including the Arnhem Highway, Stuart Highway, Tiger Brennan Drive, Wishart Road and Berrimah Road.

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. The works include installing 2 water connections from the existing main to the site.

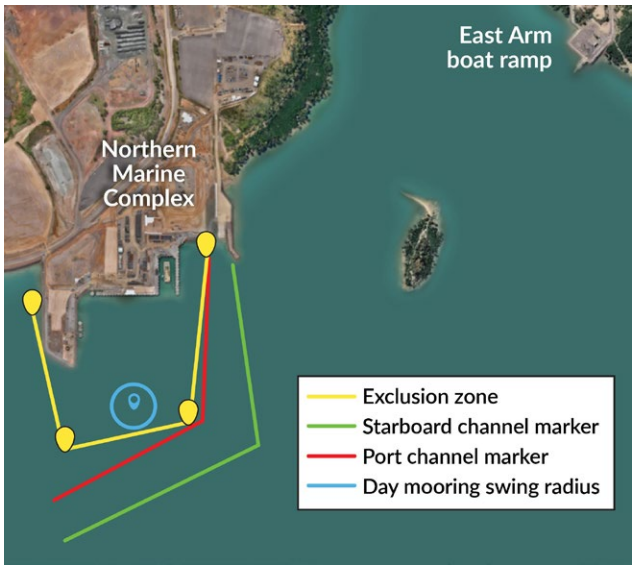
The works will be undertaken in stages with changed traffic conditions on this section of Berrimah Road. Speed reductions will be in place and temporary lane closures will be implemented during off-peak hours at various stages of the works.

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

