

Maritime Safety Queensland guidelines for major development proposals

22 September 2010

Background

Maritime Safety Queensland, as a division within the Department of Transport and Main Roads, is the concurrence agency for maritime matters as they relate to safety of navigation and prevention of ship-sourced pollution.

Maritime Safety Queensland provides expert maritime advice to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure through the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on major projects, including declared significant projects via the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

To evaluate the impacts of major projects and ensure the safety of vessels and the marine environment, Maritime Safety Queensland requires detailed information from proponents about their strategies to manage vessel traffic, aids to navigation, and ship-sourced pollution.

These requirements have been developed to assist proponents of major projects, including Coordinator-General declared significant projects, to identify, describe and evaluate all likely maritime-related impacts as part of the development approval process.

Maritime Safety Queensland will review management plans to assess development proposals and provide recommendations to the Coordinator-General on conditions for approval. Notwithstanding the requirements specified in the guidelines, Maritime Safety Queensland reserves the right to request additional information and make recommendations about the proposal to the Coordinator-General.

It is strongly recommended that proponents liaise with Maritime Safety Queensland and particularly with the relevant Regional Harbour Master to ensure close cooperation on the project development.

Applicants for tidal works administered through the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) should consult the Maritime Safety Queensland's requirements for tidal works applications under IDAS available from the Maritime Safety Queensland website.

Jurisdiction

Maritime Safety Queensland has statutory responsibilities under the following legislation and it is a requirement that the proponent's proposal complies with these regulatory requirements:

- *Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002*
- *Maritime Safety Queensland Regulation 2002*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Regulation 2008*

Management plans

The proponent is required to develop and submit three separate management plans as soon as practicable and well in advance of any construction work. The essential general requirements are applicable to the:

- vessel traffic management plan
- aids to navigation management plan
- ship-sourced pollution prevention management plan.

Maritime requires the management plans to make an effective assessment of proposed developments. Final development approval will not be possible until the information requirements detailed in this guideline are met.

Essential general requirements

The proponent must fully address essential general requirements for each of the three management plans. The three management plans must:

- identify, describe and evaluate all likely impacts on navigational safety and ship sourced marine pollution resulting from the proposed development
- consider the whole lifecycle period of the proposed development including site establishment, staged construction, staged and full operation, renewal, downsizing, closing down and site rehabilitation
- identify and describe proposed mitigation measures to manage the impacts including marine infrastructure assets and supporting systems
- identify and describe the delivery method and process on how and when the proposed mitigation measures are to be implemented
- identify and describe funding requirements and financial guarantees necessary for the successful delivery and operation of the proposed mitigation measures through the project lifecycle
- identify and describe proposed ownership model for the delivered marine infrastructure and supporting systems.

In developing the plans, the proponent must regularly consult and seek approval from the relevant regional harbour master as the nominated primary Maritime Safety Queensland contact.

Vessel traffic management plan

The vessel traffic management plan shall include information on:

- existing vessel traffic
- changes in vessel traffic resulting from the proposal
- projections on how the combined vessel traffic is managed in the future for all stages of the proposal lifecycle to ensure safety of navigation at all times.

The plan should include, but not be limited to, details about:

- type of ships
- size of ships
- maximum draughts
- frequency of movements
- existing and proposed navigational channels
- proposed patterns of operation
- changes to existing and new port procedures to manage vessel movements
- changes to any existing and new channels or waterways
- the requirement for pilotage or pilotage exemption.

Further, the vessel traffic management plan should consider:

- towage and tug requirements and procedures
- ship scheduling and minimum separation
- anchorage arrangements at sea (when waiting for port berths)
- maximum permitted vessel size
- underkeel clearance allowance/underkeel calculation methods (SUKC, DUKC)
- trim requirements
- hours of port operation
- berth information
- cyclone and other extreme weather procedures, including weather limits for suspension of pilotage
- tidal information
- dangerous cargo
- pilot positioning units
- changes to availability of bunkering, fresh water, or waste.

Aids to navigation management plan

Aids to navigation include both the visual aids to navigation typically seen marking waterways and vessel traffic services provided by Maritime Safety Queensland's vessel traffic service centres.

The aids to navigation management plan shall include information on:

- existing aids to navigation
- changes to existing aids to navigation
- new aids to navigation systems
- infrastructure required for all stages of the proposed project lifecycle to ensure safety of navigation at all times.

The aids to navigation management plan should include, but not be limited to, details about:

- type and characteristics of systems and infrastructure items
- location and operational network
- lifecycle costs and schedules
- operational and maintenance requirements
- funding schedule
- existing vessel traffic service systems and infrastructure
- changes to existing vessel traffic service systems and infrastructure (description, location, networks, lifecycle costs and schedules, operational and maintenance requirements, funding schedule).

Ship-sourced pollution prevention management plan

Ship-sourced pollution includes onshore power supply, ballast waters, rubbish, chemical, biological and toxic waste disposal, sewage, and cooling water circuits.

The ship-sourced pollution prevention plan shall include information on:

- existing ship-sourced pollution prevention
- changes to existing ship-sourced pollution prevention
- new ship-sourced pollution prevention systems
- infrastructure required for all stages of the proposed project lifecycle to ensure compliance at all times.

Further, the ship-sourced pollution prevention management plan should include, but not be limited to, details about:

- type and characteristics of systems and infrastructure items
- location and operational network
- lifecycle costs and schedules
- operational and maintenance requirements
- funding schedule.

Statement of commitments

The proponent shall detail all identified resolutions in the proponent's statement of commitments. A statement of commitments shall also address details of funding and how it is provided over the lifecycle of the project and how the ownership of the provided marine infrastructure assets is addressed.

Further information

For further information about the information requirements to evaluate significant projects telephone Maritime Services Branch on (07) 3120 7428, via email at msq.portdevelopment@msq.qld.gov.au or the relevant Maritime Safety Queensland regional office.

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