

# Frances Bay Mooring Basin

## Lock upgrade works – project update November 2021

The Frances May Mooring Basin lock will be upgraded under a revised scope of works starting in the 2022 dry season.

The Northern Territory Government announced in March 2021 that the facility would be significantly upgraded. This scope originally proposed demolishing the existing lock walls and constructing new walls, and repairing or strengthening the existing lock base slab, in addition to new lock doors. Completing this work safely may have required a closure of the basin for between 12 and 18 months.

DIPL has since undertaken further stakeholder consultation with industry groups and basin users and further value engineering and analysis, and has determined that a revised scope can deliver the necessary upgrades, while reducing the impact on basin users.

The revised scope which will now be delivered will include replacing all metal elements including the lock doors and tie rods, upgrading and modernising the mechanical and electrical components and installing cathodic protection systems.

Under this revised scope, to enable the construction works to take place safely, there will be intermittent periods of between 3-4 weeks where it will not be possible for vessels to enter or exit the lock.

These upgrade works will address pressing concerns about the lock conditions and are expected to extend the life of the lock for 30 or more years.

The revised scope now being delivered will also include construction of an additional steel drop-in coffer dam/wall, similar to the existing dam/wall within the inner door, on the sea side of the outer lock door. This will provide additional protection for the basin during replacement of the doors and will also assist in expediting future maintenance and reducing closure durations.

A tender for design and construction of this scope will be released before the end of 2021, and design work is scheduled to start in Q2 2022 and on site to follow, depending on the design solution.

The work will be staged to minimise the impact on basin and lock users, particularly at the start and ends of the various fishing seasons. It is estimated the revised scope may take longer, up to 18 months to complete as allowing the general operations to continue, will delay some of the works.

DIPL will undertake further consultation with industry groups and basin users to mitigate the impacts on users and to determine a schedule of works that has the least possible impact on basin users' operations.

Business continuity planning is continuing regarding alternative temporary facilities around Darwin Harbour to enable basin users to continue operations, maintenance and to moor vessels during basin closure periods. Industry groups and basin users will be consulted to assist in developing these plans to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

Industry groups and basin users have provided feedback that the mooring basin forms an important part of users' cyclone season contingency planning. DIPL will ensure that the construction contract includes

assurances that the works are delivered in a manner that suspends the works, thereby avoiding closures, if a cyclone threatens the Territory coast. This will ensure during the cyclone season the basin is accessible to users in the event of a cyclone watch being declared.

DIPL will continue to work with industry groups and basin users to listen to and to consider suggestions, concerns and feedback to ensure that solutions are designed in cooperation with industry and users.

Should you have any questions about the basin upgrade project or if you would like to provide feedback, please call Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager Shannon Rice on 8936 5668 or email [dhip.dipl@nt.gov.au](mailto:dhip.dipl@nt.gov.au)