

Frances Bay Mooring Basin lock upgrade

Current project timeline

- The tender to design and construct the Frances Bay Mooring Basin lock upgrade is currently at market and closes on 22 March 2022.
- It is anticipated a tender will be awarded in mid 2022.
- Further design work and off-site fabrication will take place towards the end of 2022, with construction on site to begin in the first half of 2023.
- On-site construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2024.

Planning for construction

DIPL is continuing to work with industry and vessel operators to both gain and present further information to help inform planning for the construction program.

In order to deliver the necessary upgrades to the lock and maintain the safety of workers and vessel operators, intermittent access restrictions will apply during construction, however are limited to business as usual lock operations. No closures are currently planned, without stakeholder consultation when the tide is above 3.5m.

DIPL will continue to seek and listen to industry feedback to help shape the delivery of the project, including scheduling access restrictions during periods which will cause least disruption. Notice of any access restrictions will be provided well in advance.

DIPL currently anticipates that the main access restrictions will occur in 2023, and possibly into 2024, with the exception of the annual lock maintenance shutdown in August most years. The construction shut downs are likely to include;

- Up to four major lock entry/exit closures of up to approximately three weeks' maximum duration from 2023.
- Minor intermittent lock closures during a restricted low tide level from 2023. DIPL is currently planning for these intermittent closures to occur at tides less than 3.5m LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide), when the lock is not able to be used due to water levels, as it is currently. However, allowing the contractor access to work at up to 4.5m LAT could enable construction to be completed faster. DIPL would like feedback from vessel operators on how this could impact them, and if it is a viable option.

DIPL has analysed vessel data on entry and exit from the lock in 2020 and 2021 and determined the busiest and least busiest periods, which will be taken into account in construction program planning;

- Low Usage (Saturday / Sunday)

- Medium Usage (Tuesday)
- High Usage (Monday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday)

The construction contract will stipulate mandatory periods where lock entry and exit must be maintained. These periods have been informed by industry consultation and include;

- January – Last week and first week February
- Last week of March
- June – Last week
- August – First week
- November – Last week

Please provide feedback

DIPL would like to gauge feedback from vessel operators about the potential impact of allowing the construction contractor to work on the lock and restrict access to users at tides of 4m and 4.5m (LAT).

This information will inform planning for the construction program.

Enabling construction access to the lock at up to 4.5m LAT may potentially enable faster completion of construction. However DIPL is cognisant of any additional impact on operations and will continue to listen to feedback and take it into account.

DIPL understands that some vessel operators will be able to plan lock movements in advance and that other operators are more limited in their ability to plan their lock movements and may require access across a broader spectrum of days, times and tides.

DIPL encourages operators, when able to provide feedback on likely access requirements in 2023 and 2024 during construction.

To provide your comments, contact the project stakeholder engagement manager via dhip.dipl@nt.gov.au or call **(08) 8936 5668**.