DARWIN SHIP LIFT

Project Bulletin January 2024

The Northern Territory Government is delivering the ship lift to establish Darwin as a thriving maritime services industry hub.

The ship lift will establish Darwin as a key maritime maintenance centre in Northern Australia and servicing South East Asia, and will capitalise on the Territory's strategic position in the Asia Pacific region.

The Defence industry is a key stakeholder and potential future user of the ship lift facility to support naval operations in Northern Australia.

Below is an update on how the Darwin Harbour Infrastructure Project (DHIP) team is continuing to progress the Darwin Ship Lift project.

Ship Lift activity progress

Activity	Complete Underway	Progress	Target completion
Site investigations activities	\oslash	100%	January 2023
Design contract awarded to WGA Consulting Engineers	Ø	100%	March 2023
Site WWII unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance activities	\bigcirc	100%	May 2023
Completing navigation simulations for the ship lift facility with WGA and Smartship Australia	\oslash	100%	May 2023
Completing 3D hydraulic modelling of the ship lift facility design with WGA and Manly Hydraulics Laboratories	\oslash	100%	May 2023
Scoping long lead items for ship lift and self-propelled modular transporter	\bigcirc	100%	May 2023
International supply/early works market testing and hosted vendor workshops for ship lift and transfer systems	\oslash	100%	June 2023
Gained final Ministerial environmental approvals with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)	\checkmark	100%	August 2023
Early works contract tender, planning and release	\bigcirc	100%	Q3 2023
Negotiated and awarded contract for construction	\bigcirc	100%	September 2023
Gained Australian Government Environmental Approvals for Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act	\checkmark	100%	October 2023
Development Application submission	\bigcirc	100%	November 2023
Heritage clearance activities	\bigcirc	100%	Q4 2023
Procuring Principal Arranged Insurances for the works, marine transit and extreme weather	\bigcirc	75%	Q1 2024
Early works including: I long lead and local supply procurements and construction approvals establishing the site pre-stockpiling material for reclamation and construction preparation works and commence dredging reclamation works	\checkmark	10%	Q1 2024
Long lead procurement items tender planning, procurement and award: • ship lift system • self-propelled modular transporter	⊘	95% 95%	Q1 2024





Activity	Complete Underway	Progress	Target completion
Tender released and contract award for independent financial auditor	\bigcirc	50%	Q1 2024
Detailed design progress	\bigcirc	75%	Q2 2024
Heritage interpretive signage project	\bigcirc	10%	Q4 2024
Gain Defence Qualification for the facility	\bigcirc	15%	Q1 2025
Discussions with Defence Regional Maintenance Centre team in Darwin	\bigcirc	Ongoing	Q1 2025

Progress on procurement opportunities

Procurement is continuing for the early works and long lead items for the Darwin Ship Lift Facility.

Tenders have been reviewed for the ship lift system, steel trestles and self-propelling modular transporter, and are expected to be awarded in the first quarter of 2024.

Contractor Clough-BMD Joint Venture (CBJV) has been establishing its Darwin office and is continuing procurement for dredging, quarry material and steel supply.

CBJV is preparing for site works including environmental approvals, locating utilities and underground services on site and designing temporary works for the site and adjacent areas.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) has progressed the ship lift design with project design team Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA).



The project is anticipated to employ 250 workers at the peak of construction and an average of 100 workers on site generally. The ship lift facility will generate and maintain hundreds of local jobs in the maritime support sector when completed.

