DARWIN SHIP LIFT

Project Bulletin October 2023

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	Ø	100%	January 2023
Design contract awarded to WGA Consulting Engineers	⊘	100%	March 2023
Site WWII unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance activities	Ø	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	\bigcirc	100%	May 2023
Scoping long lead items for ship lift and self-propelled modular transporter	\oslash	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)	\oslash	100%	August 2023
Early works contract tender, planning and release	\bigcirc	100%	Q3 2023
Negotiated and awarded contract for construction	②	100%	September 2023
Gained Australian Government Environmental Approvals for Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act	\oslash	100%	October 2023
Finalising the Development Application and approvals documentation	\bigcirc	90%	Q3 2023
Heritage clearance activities	\bigcirc	95%	Q3 2023
Procuring Principal Arranged Insurances for the works, marine transit and extreme weather	\bigcirc	75%	Q3 2023
Early works including: • 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	5%	Q3 2023 - Q1 2024
Long lead procurement items tender planning, procurement and award: • ship lift system • self-propelled modular transporter	⊘	80% 80%	Q4 2023





Activity	Complete Underway	Progress	Target completion
Department of Treasury and Finance consent for negotiated project securities, bonding and foreign exchange elements with the various providers, particularly international supply items	⊘	80%	Q4 2023
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

Getting ready for construction

The Darwin Ship Lift project has progressed early works, design and procurements before construction starts at East Arm this year.

The ship lift will be capable of lifting vessels of up to 5,500 tonnes, enabling vessels in the defence, energy, pearling, fishing and coastal cruising industries to be serviced in Darwin.

The project will deliver:

- a ship lift 26 metres wide, 103 metres long
- wet berths to allow vessels to undertake inwater maintenance
- hard stand areas for ship repair and maintenance works
- self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) units that transport the ships around the facility once they are out of the water
- an administration building, SPMT shed and Blast and Paint Facility
- East Arm utilities upgrades to support the ship lift and broader marine industry park development.

The head contract to build the ship lift has been awarded to Clough-BMD Joint Venture.

The contractor will be undertaking the following activities:

- establish the site, including site survey and set out, fencing, environmental controls, potholing existing utilities and establish initial site office
- pre-stockpile material for initial reclamation and construction
- preparation works for and commence dredging
- start reclamation works.



