

Vessel Speed Limits in Port of Darwin

Port Notice

PN/013

Work Safe. Live Safe.

Version Control

VERSION	DATE	POSITION	NAME	REASON FOR CHANGE
1.0	25/06/2014			Initial Version
2.0	31/03/2015			Review – Introduction of Ports Management Act
2.1	07/06/2017	DOM	Gary Bawden	Biennial review
2.2	09/05/2018	GML	Sarah-Jane Archdale	Legal review
2.3	08/02/2019	GMO	Ian Niblock	QA & consultation with Environmental Manager
2.4	22/02/2019	GML	Katherine-Anne Waldron	Final review
2.5	06/03/2019	Executive Assistant	Alleen Breward	Branding & format review
3.0	20/03/2019	CEO	Terry O'Connor	Approval

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1. TITLE

Port Notice promulgating speed limits in the Port of Darwin.

2. REFERENCE LEGISLATION

- *Ports Management Act 2015 (NT)*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Cth)*
- Technical and Safety Standard for Pilotage and Provision of Pilotage Services for the Port of Darwin

3. SCOPE

This Port Notice applies within the gazetted port limits of Darwin as detailed in figure 1.



Figure 1 – Darwin Port Limits

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4. APPLICATION

This Port Notice applies to any vessel greater than 35m LOA, the use of which is made, allowed or authorised in the course of any business or in connection with any commercial transaction and, subject to any law in force in the Territory, includes a Government vessel, but does not include a vessel which is used solely for pleasure or recreation.

5. PREFACE

This Port Notice is issued pursuant to Section 57 of the Ports Management Act.

The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**) approval for East Arm Wharf expansion works stipulates measures to manage the risk of vessel strike to marine fauna. These include:

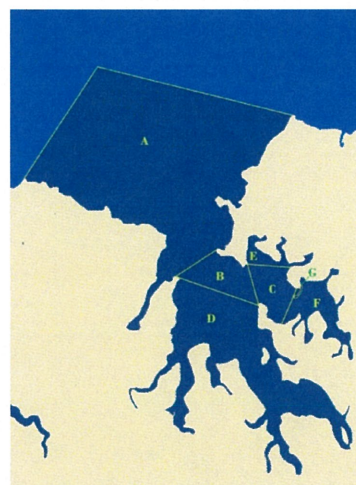
- Prescribed maximum commercial vessel speed limits;
- Enforcement of speed limits;
- Monitoring and reporting of vessel strike; and
- Adaptive management measures.

6. SPEED LIMITS

Darwin Harbour is a compulsory pilotage area divided into a number of pilotage zones. These zones are described in the Technical and Safety Standards for Pilotage and the Provision of Pilotage Services for the Port of Darwin.

Vessel speed limits are as follows;

- Zone A – 16 knots
- Zones B & C – 12 knots
- Zone D – 10 knots
- Zones E, F & G – 8 knots



Vessels may exceed the prescribed speed limits by the minimum amount required where:

- The vessel may be unreasonably compromised (e.g. due to tidal windows increasing the risk of grounding);
- The vessel has fixed speed settings that are unreasonable if operating below the nominal maximum speed limit; or
- Specific exemption has been granted by a Port Management Officer in situations where there is a high probability of unacceptable constraints to economic, social and environmental aspects if the speed limit were applied.

Vessels may exceed the prescribed speed limits when rendering assistance to a vessel or persons in distress or when directed by the Port Management Officer or Harbour Control.

Applications for exemption must be submitted, in writing, to the Port Management Officer.

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7. ENFORCEMENT OF SPEED LIMITS

Darwin Harbour Control is fitted with a range of sensors that enable it to monitor vessel speeds. Vessels exceeding the prescribed speed limit will be requested to reduce speed by the Harbour Control Officer.

Harbour Control Officers will log occasions where vessels exceed the prescribed speeds limits and report these to the Port Management Officer.

The Port Management Officer will evaluate each occasion and the explanation offered by the vessel master and take such action as deemed necessary. Such action may include prosecution.


The Port Management Officer will conduct annual reviews of these logs to inform adaptive management measures. Such adaptive management measures will include initiatives aimed at reducing risk of vessel strike such as the revision of speed limits in areas identified as high risk.

8. REPORTING VESSEL STRIKES OR NEAR MISSES

Any vessel that strikes or otherwise injures wildlife, or has a near miss with wildlife, and becomes aware of that fact is to complete the Animal Near Miss/Strike Form and send it to the Darwin Port Environmental Manager at Darwinport@darwinport.com.au

9. REVIEW STATEMENT

This Port Notice will be reviewed biennially by the General Manager Operations.



TERRY O'CONNOR
Chief Executive Officer
Darwin Port Operations Pty Ltd
Port Operator

20 March 2019

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