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PORT NOTICE

Harbour Towage

PN/004

OPS-LEG-04

General Manager, Operations

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1. TITLE

Port Notice for the provision of harbour towage services in the Port of Darwin.

2. REFERENCE LEGISLATION

- *Ports Management Act*
- *Marine Act*
- *Marine (Pilotage) Regulations*
- Technical and Safety Standards 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 contained in figure 1.



Figure 1 – Port Boundary

4. PREFACE

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

The Port of Darwin is an “open port” for harbour towing services. The Port Operator neither provides a towing service nor engages towing service providers directly. This approach encourages competition amongst towing service providers but does pose some challenges for the regulation of towing service provider safety and operating standards.

5. REGULATION OF TOWING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Towing service providers are not specifically dealt with under current legislation. Notwithstanding this, there is a need for some regulation in order to maintain minimum safety and operating standards.

Section 12 of the Ports Management Act, requires the Port Operator to establish, manage, maintain and operate facilities and services in the designated port that promote its safe and efficient operation and to facilitate trade utilising the designated port and use its best endeavours to increase the volume of that trade.

6. FUNCTION OF PORT OPERATOR

In accordance with Section 57 of the Ports Management Act, the Port Operator may, by a port notice, control activities or conduct within the port for the purpose of maintaining or improving its safe, secure or efficient operation. It may, inter alia, control the movement or mooring of vessels within the port; or control activities on or by vessels within the port.

7. NOTICE

In order to control harbour towing activities and conduct for the purpose of maintaining or improving its safe, secure or efficient operation, the Port Operator may carry out initial and annual inspections of towing service providers’ management and vessel systems to facilitate an initial and then ongoing acceptance of the towing services offered by each respective provider. The Port Operator reserves the right to carry out inspections as required.

Inspections will incorporate the following criteria:

- (a) Towing Service Provider – management systems and policies
- (b) Tug certification
- (c) Tug crew knowledge, experience and training
- (d) Tug operating procedures
- (e) Equipment maintenance schedules
- (f) Records
- (g) Tug master training including:
 - i. Pre-operation training on board
 - ii. On-the-job training including the completion of set manoeuvres under the supervision of a check tug master
 - iii. Port familiarisation
 - iv. Familiarisation with ship handling manoeuvres used in the Port through briefings or tripping with pilots
 - v. A record of all training carried out.

8. TUGMASTER TRAINING NOTIFICATION

Towage operators shall notify the Port Management Officer prior to the commencement of on-the-job training of a new tug master to facilitate notification of the port pilots of the tug master's trainee status.

9. AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)

All tugs underway must operate an AIS Transponder.

10. PILOTAGE COMPLIANCE

In the unlikely event that a tug exceeds the lower pilotage limit length of 35 metres overall length, the compulsory pilotage requirements under Technical and Safety Standards for Pilotage and Provision of Pilotage Services in the Port of Darwin will apply. This means that the effected tug master must obtain a Pilotage Exemption Certificate to operate in compliance with Northern Territory legislation.

11. REVIEW STATEMENT

This direction will be reviewed biennially by the General Manager Operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dummett'.

PETER DUMMETT
Chief Executive Officer
Darwin Port Operations Pty Ltd
Port Operator

1 October 2023