

CURRENT PROJECTS AND WATERWAYS OPERATIONS



Update – 8 November 2023

Current projects – Program Delivery – Spit Master Plan Implementation

North Channel and South Channel dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves dredging of the North Channel and South Channel leading to the Gold Coast Seaway. • Preliminary works are underway with dredging expected to commence in late 2023. • Cost: \$1.5 million
South Wave Break Island Channel dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves investigations for possible solutions to extend the time taken between dredging projects. • Preliminary investigations are currently underway, with works expected to be completed by end of June 2024. • Cost: \$0.1 million
Tallebudgera (Murlong Crescent) boat ramp and floating walkway replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves removal of the existing boat ramp and floating walkway and upgrading them to current specifications. • Preliminary works are underway with works expected to be completed by June 2024. • Cost: \$1.1 million
Isle of Capri boat ramp replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves replacement of an existing boat ramp and upgrade to current specifications. • Preliminary works are underway with works expected to be completed by June 2024. • Cost: \$0.7 million
Paradise Point pontoon repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves repairs to damaged infrastructure at Paradise point. • Preliminary works are underway with works expected to be completed by June 2024. • Cost: \$0.03 million
Cavill Avenue pontoon repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves repairs to damaged infrastructure at Cavill Avenue (Surfers Paradise). • Preliminary works are underway with works expected to be completed by June 2024. • Cost: \$0.05 million
Sand Bypass System Capital replacement fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves replacement of corroded guide rails that guide the jet pumps into the water. • Design works are now underway with works expected to be completed by June 2024. • Cost: \$0.95 million
Sand Bypass System Jetty protective coating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves repainting of the jetty to ensure longevity of the structure. • The project will now not be proceeding in its current form.

Navigation Aids work vessel replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves design and construction of a new work vessel. • The contract has now been awarded with the vessel expected to be completed by April 2024. • Cost: \$1.6 million
Coomera River dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves dredging of the Coomera River from Paradise Point to the Coomera Marine Precinct. • Dredging works for the channel were completed in September 2023. • Cost: \$2.5 million.
Gold Coast Seaway dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves dredging of a sand shoal at the entrance of the Gold Coast Seaway. • Dredging has been commenced and is expected to be completed by November 2023. • Cost: \$0.1 million.
West Crab Island Channel (North) dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project involves dredging of the West Crab Island Channel between Ephraim Island bridge and Coomera River (South Arm). • Dredging has been completed and bed levelling works are expected to be completed by November 2023. • Cost: \$1.2 million.
Oxenford Pacific Highway boat ramp upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the Oxenford boat ramp and construction of a new pontoon. • Construction has now commenced, with works expected to be completed by November 2023. • Cost: \$1.1 million.
Navigation Aids major maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs and maintenance to existing aids to navigation within the Gold Coast Broadwater. • Works are expected to commence in September 2023 and be completed by December 2023. • Cost: \$0.4 million.
Muriel Henchman Park upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant upgrade of existing facility including additional boat ramp lanes, additional boat trailer parking (extra 48), additional car park bays (extra 80), public pontoon expansion, floating walkway, and new public amenities. • Construction commenced mid-August 2023 with the first stage of works focussed on the main car park and foreshore revetment wall. • Cost: \$18 million.
Doug Jennings Park revitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to Doug Jennings Park will seek to maximise the community benefit of the space. • Likely to include prioritisation of people over vehicles at water's edge, versatile spaces for various activities, and trafficable paths to reduce turf damage during event set-up and take-down. • Top of The Spit Precinct Plan is currently out for public comment until 19 November. Cost: \$5.8m

Waterways operations

Aids to navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since early-October 2023, GCWA's operations team has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – serviced marine signs and repairing damaged beacons in the Nerang River – serviced lights and structures in the Hope Island area – completed major beacon replacements within the Canaipa Passage and Pimpama River – established a temporary special buoy to mark a submerged vehicle with a trailer in Currumbin Creek near the Thrower Drive public boat ramp – serviced marine signs in the Gold Coast Seaway – upgraded speed signs at Tiplers Passage. • There are currently 2,112 beacons, buoys, lights, and marine signs throughout Gold Coast waters.
Anchoring and other watercraft operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following some extensive background enquiries, GCWA's operations team issued removal notices for two vessels moored behind a residential property Monterey Keys canals at Helensvale. The owner now has 14 days before GCWA may take further action to remove the vessels. • GCWA also monitored 25 vessels – 24 near Paradise Point and one in the Nerang River near Budds Beach – for compliance with Gold Coast's unique 7-days anchoring restrictions. GCWA subsequently issued removal notices to five vessels anchored near Paradise Point. The owners have 14 days from the date of the notice to move their vessels. • GCWA is currently preparing an operation with Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to undertake multi-agency patrols of the Coomera River, targeting anchoring compliance, marine plant damage, and vessel safety.
Buoys moorings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCWA intends to meet further with Healthy Land & Water (HLW) to discuss its Environmentally Friendly Mooring (EFM) replacement project within the Moreton Bay marine park.
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCWA events team met with Major Events Gold Coast on 12 October 2023 to review and discuss upcoming events taking place in Doug Jennings Park and on Gold Coast waterways. • GCWA issued the trustee permit for the 'Be Challenged' team building event in Doug Jennings Park on Wednesday, 25 October 2023. • GCWA's contractor finalised restoration works following the Promiseland music festival in Doug Jennings on 30 September and 1 October 2023, ensuring the parklands meet community expectations for a public open space. Unfortunately, there was some damage to park infrastructure and the grassed surface. • GCWA's events team has also been progressing the Schoolies Nation music festival to be held in Doug Jennings Park on 22 November 2023, and managing stakeholder meetings for the Juicy music festival to be held in Doug Jennings Park on 20 January 2024. • GCWA recently granted three aquatic event authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – larger private function on the Broadwater on 21 October 2023 – Wild & Co. three-hour adventure paddle across various Gold Coast waterways on 21 October 2023 – Currumbin Dragons Paddling Club padding event in Currumbin Creek on 22 October 2023.

Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCWA's planning team is currently assessing two marina extensions, one at the Southport Yacht Club's sailing base at Hollywell, and the second for a private marina at Steiglitz. GCWA provided technical advice to both proponents to help achieve better development outcomes. GCWA also intends to send an information request for the Steiglitz marina seeking clarification on water depths for vessels entering and manoeuvring within the proposed marina. GCWA's planning team attended a practical training session focused on developing skills to interpret and draft lawful conditions for development approvals under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>. The session was delivered as part of the Planning Institute of Australia's technical knowledge series by Corrs Chambers Westgarth, experts in planning and environment law. GCWA's planning team recently received a development proposal for a new tourist attraction in the Nerang River near Pacific Fair. GCWA will provide the proponent with advice from a waterways management perspective at a pre-lodgement meeting. GCWA's planning team also continued providing technical advice to proponents, pontoon manufacturers, and marina design and construction companies to ensure that development applications for marine structures within the Gold Coast canal systems align with GCWA's expectations regarding vessel size and manoeuvrability.
Pollution response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several members of GCWA's operations team successfully completed a three-day shoreline response course at Main Beach. This was an excellent opportunity for GCWA to enhance its capability for marine pollution incident response, with its focus on working and leading a shoreline clean-up team safely during an oil spill response operation. GCWA's senior waterways officer, Kerri Whichello, attended the one-day pollution equipment familiarisation (ODPEF) training organised by MSQ for our Women in Maritime. This training is a condensed version of the two-day basic operator equipment course and is designed to equip participants with basic knowledge and skills to assist with deployment, operation, and recovery of marine pollution response equipment.
War on Wrecks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCWA's operations team followed-up on reports of an abandoned pontoon in the Nerang River near Broadbeach Waters. It seems the pontoon originated from a dilapidated composite pontoon structure adjacent the HOTA complex in Bundall. GCWA referred information to the City of Gold Coast, from the development compliance perspective. GCWA operations team also responded to five separate reports of abandoned vessels from the Nerang River at Broadbeach Waters to Saltwater Creek at Coombabah. Three vessels had already been removed prior to GCWA's arrival; the other two vessels were removed by GCWA. The total number of abandoned watercraft (vessels and pontoons) managed, removed, sold, or destroyed by GCWA as part of the War on Wrecks program currently stands at 240.

Completed projects

Dux Anchorage pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed August 2014
Holly Avenue boat ramp reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed December 2014
Jasmine Avenue boat ramp reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed March 2015
Gold Coast Seaway Diver Access – Stage 1 and Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed July 2015
Surfers Paradise Riverside Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan completed December 2014
Surfers Paradise Riverside commercial pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in June 2015
Currumbin Creek – Winders Park boat ramp upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in June 2015
Replacement Navigational Aids maintenance vessel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in June 2015
Coleman Road boat ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in July 2015
Currumbin Creek – Winders Park pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in August 2015
Currumbin Creek – Preston Park pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed October 2015
Fleay's Canoe Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed January 2016
Broadwater Parklands 4-lane boat ramp, floating walkways and pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed February 2016
Labrador Channel dredging – Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed February 2016
Labrador Channel dredging – Stage 2 (Missing Link)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed May 2016
Doug Jennings Park public toilets and new sewerage rising main	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed December 2015
Biggera Creek dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed July 2016
Tipplers Passage dredging and pontoon extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed August 2016
Main Channel South near Coomera River North Arm dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed as part of the Tipplers Passage Dredging Project (refer to above)
Jacobs Well (Main Channel North) dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed November 2016
South Channel and South Wave Beak Island Channel dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed December 2016
Surfers Paradise Riverside Master Plan Implementation (Appel Park stepped foreshore treatment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed December 2016

Cabbage Tree Point navigation channel dredging	• Completed November 2016
Muriel Henchman pontoon replacement/upgrade	• Completed July 2017
Seaway South Emergency Access Stairs	• Completed October 2017
Doug Jennings Park Upgrade Works – Stage 3	• Completed December 2017
Labrador Channel dredging (northern end) including infill area in North Channel	• Completed July 2018
Canaipa Passage dredging 18/19	• Completed November 2018
Paradise Point pontoon	• Completed November 2018
Doug Jennings Park – Stage 4	• Completed November 2018
Osprey Nesting Platform Currumbin Creek	• Completed February 2019
Paradise Point pontoon upgrade	• Completed December 2018
Coomera Dredge Sediment Management Facility	• Completed March 2019
Sand Bypass System 100kW Solar PV Project	• Completed June 2019
Lower Coomera River dredging	• Completed June 2019
Seaway Tower refurbishment works (TMR)	• Completed July 2019
Alberton pontoon	• Completed August 2019
Upper Coomera River dredging	• Completed August 2019
South Wave Break Island Channel dredging	• Completed December 2019
West Crab Island Channel dredging (south)	• Completed July 2020
Main Channel (North and South)	• Completed September 2021
Sand Bypass System High Voltage Switch Gear upgrade	• Completed December 2021
Gold Coast Seaway, North Channel and South Channel dredging	• Completed December 2021
Jacobs Well boat ramp upgrade	• Completed December 2021
Burleigh Heads boat ramp repair	• Completed in June 2023

Sand Bypass System transformer and low voltage switch gear upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in June 2023
Jabiru Island Boat Ramp Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed July 2023
Broadwater Parklands Pontoon Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed June 2023
Marine Stadium Jetty and Pontoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed August 2023