4.   Port description

4.1   General

The port of Weipa is situated approximately 200 km south from the tip of Cape York on the west coast of the Cape York Peninsula and 800 km by road from Cairns and has a population of about 3,900 people.(Census 2016) Its principal export is bauxite (Approx. 27.3 million tonnes in 2018/2019) from the Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) mine, the majority of which is shipped to the RTA refinery at Gladstone. Two other wharves, Humbug Wharf and Evans Landing Wharf, handle a variety of commodities including general cargo, fuel and live cattle. In 2018 / 2019 the port of Weipa had 1450 vessel movements.

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBPC) is responsible for the operation and management of the port.

4.2   Pilotage area

The Weipa Port and pilotage limits are described in schedule 2 of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2016* as the area of:

a)   Waters bounded by an imaginary line drawn:

- starting at the high water (HW) mark on the Western tip of Jantz Point (West of Duyfken Point)

- then in a Southerly direction to the HW mark at the Western tip of Boyd Point

- then by the HW mark in a Northerly direction along the shoreline of the mainland to the starting point; and

b)   The navigable waters of rivers and creeks flowing directly or indirectly into the waters of (a).

4.3   Load lines

Weipa is in the South Pacific seasonal tropical area.

Tropical: from 1 April to 30 November.

Summer: from 1 December to 31 March.

4.4   Maximum vessel size

The port limits ship size to 240 m LOA, beam 43 m.

Vessels over 240 m LOA or a beam over 43 m are subject to Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and Ports North Pilot Manager (Cairns) approval and maybe subject to Full Mission Bridge Simulation (FMBS) exercises before any approval will be considered

Any other information such as the nomination process remains in place.

4.4.1   Approved Mini-Cape vessels for Weipa

Table 6 Approved mini-cape vessels

Vessel	LOA	Beam
Orient Cavalier	255.00 m	43.00 m
Orient Centaur	255.00 m	43.00 m
Orient Crusader	255.00 m	43.00 m
Orient Strength	255.00 m	43.00 m
Orient Sun	255.00 m	43.00 m
Baroque	255.00 m	43.00 m
Aquitania G	255.00 m	43.00 m
Britannia G	255.00 m	43.00 m
Horizon ll	255.00 m	43.00 m
Star Zulu	255.00 m	43.00 m
Paola	255.00 m	43.00 m

4.5   Trim requirements

The safe handling of ships within the confines of the channels and swing basins requires certain conditions of trim. Ships should be ballasted or loaded in order to have an even keel or trimmed by the stern with the forward draft not less than 2% LOA and the propeller fully submerged. Vessels trimmed by the head or listing may be subject to restrictions; ships not meeting this requirement may experience considerable delays until the problem is rectified.

Passenger vessels may have to trim by the head up to one meter.

Masters should pay special attention to their loading/ballasting plans to ensure that their ships are suitably trimmed and able to put to sea at short notice, especially during the cyclone season – November to April.

4.6   Time zone

UTC + 10 hours throughout the year.

4.7   Working hours

Port service providers are available 24 hours per day seven days per week.

4.8   Charts and books

For navigation in pilotage areas, masters should refer to the nautical charts produced by the Australian Hydrographic Office and Admiralty Sailing Directions.

4.9   Shipping announcements

4.9.1   Notices to Mariners

Maritime Safety Queensland circulates marine safety information to mariners, organisations and other interested parties, in the form of Notices to Mariners.

Notices to Mariners advise of:

- navigation warnings and hazards (such as aids to navigation which may have been destroyed, missing or unlit)
- changes to the uniform buoyage system (which assists with the correction and updating of marine charts)
- navigation depths (necessary when navigating in channels with depth restrictions)
- any other works which may affect the safe navigation of vessels in Queensland coastal waters and ports (such as dredging operations and construction works).