

1. Introduction

1.1 General

Welcome to the port of Mackay, which is situated approximately 950 kilometres north of Brisbane.

Shipping legislation in Queensland is controlled by Maritime Safety Queensland, a state government agency attached to Department of Transport & Main Roads.

The State of Queensland is divided up into six regions, five of which are controlled by a RHM and the sixth by a manager, all officers of Maritime Safety Queensland who report to the general manager under the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) are responsible for:

- improving maritime safety for shipping and small craft through regulation and education.
- minimising vessel sourced waste and providing response to marine pollution.
- providing essential maritime services such as port pilots licensing and aids to navigation.
- encouraging and supporting innovation in the maritime industry.

The limit of Queensland coastal waters is defined by a line three nautical miles seaward of the territorial sea baseline. The arrangements outlined in these procedures apply to the geographical areas gazetted as pilotage areas in Queensland. Pilotage areas have been gazetted around designated ports and maritime areas to ensure the safe and efficient movement of shipping. These areas encompass the approaches, main shipping channel and waters of the port.

For the purposes of this document the term Mackay Port Limit encompasses Mackay Pilotage limit and Mackay VTS area, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Collectively, the Regional Harbour Master and North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) authority have responsibility for managing the safe and efficient operation of the port.

1.2 Port Description

Mackay services the mining communities of the Bowen Basin and several large sugar mills in the region. The principal imports are refined fuel products, fertilisers, magnetite, ro-ro and general cargo. Exports include raw sugar, refined sugar, ethanol, molasses, scrap metal, grain and chickpeas in bulk.

1.3 Purpose

This document defines the standard procedures to be followed in Mackay Port Limits. It contains information and guidelines to assist ship's masters, owners and agents of vessels arriving at and traversing the area. It provides details of the services and the regulations and procedures to be observed.

Nothing in this publication is intended to relieve any vessel, owner, operator, charterer, master, or person directing the movement of a vessel from the consequences of any failure to comply with any applicable law or regulation or of any neglect of precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamanship or by the special circumstances of the case.

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The latest version of this publication is available on the [Maritime Safety Queensland](#) website.

Any significant updates to the content of these procedures will be promulgated on this site.

Should errors or omissions in this publication be noted, it would be appreciated if advice of these could be forwarded to:

Contact officer: Regional Harbour Master (Mackay)

Postal address: PO Box 58, Mackay Queensland 4740

Phone: +61 7 4944 3700

Email: RHMMackay@tmr.qld.gov.au

1.4 Datum

All water depths refer to the lowest astronomical tide height (LAT).

All positions in this manual are in WGS84.

All directions are referenced to true north.

1.5 Definitions

1.5.1 Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

[The Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#) is the commonwealth authority charged with enhancing efficiency in the delivery of safety and other services to the Australian maritime industry.

1.5.2 Australian Standard — AS 3846

AS 3846 refers to the Australian requirements for the handling and transport of dangerous goods in port areas.

1.5.3 Local knowledge assessment

An authority issued by the Mackay RHM for masters of vessels less than 50 metres but greater than 35 metres intending to work in a commercial capacity within the port limit as outlined in the [Standard for Commercial Marine Activities—Mackay region](#).

For vessels less than 50 metres but greater than 35 metres intending to work in a commercial capacity within the port limit shall be required to conduct a local authority assessment with the Mackay RHM. RHM may issue specific exemption to master for specific vessel or their employment to specific companies that are only intending to transit port limit to conduct other commercial activities.

1.5.4 Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)

This is the zero value from which all tides are measured.

1.5.5 Manager Pilotage Services

The person responsible for the service delivery of pilotage services within the region.

1.5.6 Manager Vessel Traffic Services (MVTs)

The MVTs is responsible for the management of the VTS centre.

1.5.7 Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

MSQ is the state government agency responsible for the operations of VTS, pollution protection services and the administration of all aspects of vessel registration and marine safety in the State of Queensland.

1.5.8 Modernised Australian Ship Tracking and Reporting System (MASTREP)

The Modernised Australian Ship Tracking and Reporting System (MASTREP) is a Ship Reporting System designed to contribute to safety of life at sea and is operated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) through the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) Australia in Canberra.

1.5.9 Navigation Act

Refer to the [Navigation Act 2012](#).

1.5.10 North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited (NQBP)

The North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited (NQBP) is a statutory Queensland government owned corporation charged with overseeing the commercial activities in the port, including the maintenance of the port infrastructure and management of the Pilotage Services. Refer [1.6.3](#) Port Authority for contact details.

1.5.11 Length Overall (LOA)

Refers to the extreme length of a vessel.

1.5.12 Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC)

Exemption granted to certain qualified masters who have satisfied the necessary legislative requirements and are authorised to navigate ships in the port pilotage area without a pilot.

1.5.13 Queensland Shipping Information Planning System (QSHIPS)

An internet web-based ship movement booking service that may be accessed by the shipping community 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The programme allows port service provider organisations the ability to accept service requests made by shipping agents and streamline ship movement planning by significantly

reducing the existing levels of point-to-point communications that are necessary to ensure a planned ship movement has been adequately resourced with supporting services.

1.5.14 REEFREP

The mandatory [ship reporting systems](#) established by IMO resolution MSC.52 (66), as amended by resolution MSC.161 (78) and specified in Marine Orders Part 63 (Reef VTS).

1.5.15 Reef VTS

The Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Vessel Traffic Service ([ReefVTS](#)) established by Australia as a means of enhancing navigational safety and environmental protection in Torres Strait and the Great Barrier Reef.

1.5.16 Regional Harbour Master (RHM)

The person authorised to give direction under the relevant provisions of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety Act\) 1994](#) and the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution Act\) 1995](#).

1.5.17 Sailing Time

The actual sailing time is the time of the “last line”.

1.5.18 Vessel Traffic Service Operator (VTSO)

A person, suitably qualified, delegated by the Regional Harbour Master to monitor the safe movement of vessels and to give direction under the relevant provisions of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#).

1.5.19 Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)

A VTS is any service implemented by a competent authority, designed to maximise the safe and efficient movement of water borne traffic within the jurisdiction.

1.6 Contact Information

1.6.1 The Regional Harbour Master (RHM)

For operational maritime questions, marine incidents, pollution, pilotage, buoy moorings, navigation aids, towage requirements and ship traffic scheduling please contact the Regional Harbour Master's office.

Physical address: 44 Nelson Street, Mackay Queensland 4740

Postal address: PO Box 58, Mackay Queensland 4740

Phone: +61 7 4944 3700

Email: RHMMackay@tmr.qld.gov.au

1.6.2 Port Control

The port control or Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) centre (call sign Mackay VTS) is situated at Hay Point. For ship traffic scheduling, pollution incidents and reporting defective navigation aids please direct initial enquiries to the VTS centre.

The service is provided by Maritime Safety Queensland and provides a 24 hour, seven days a week marine operations service to the port community. They are contactable on:

VHF radio: channel 10 and 16

Phone: 1300 645 022

Email: VTSHaypoint@msq.qld.gov.au

In the event of an emergency, the VTS centre is the key notification and communications facility that will activate the appropriate response agencies.

Ship traffic movements may be accessed on the [QSHIPS](#) website.

1.6.3 Port Authority

The primary function of the [North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited](#) (NQBP) under the [Transport Infrastructure Act 1994](#) is to establish, manage and operate effective and efficient facilities and services within the port while maintaining appropriate levels of safety and security.

Contact details for NQBP are:

Address: Level 1 & 2, Waterfront Place, Mulherin Drive, Mackay Harbour
Queensland 4740

Shipping enquiries: +61 7 4955 8147 or portoperations@nqbp.com.au

General enquiries: +61 7 4969 0700 or info@nqbp.com.au

1.7 Rules and Regulations

1.7.1 General

The rules and regulations in the port contribute to the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible handling of shipping traffic. The international rules of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), such as the Safety of Life at Sea convention (SOLAS) and its amendments (for example the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code) and state, national and local Port Authority regulations are in force in the port of Mackay.

NQBP [Port of Mackay Operations Manual](#) and [NQBP Port Notice](#) outline the specific regulations for ships in the port for example the carriage of dangerous cargoes.

1.7.2 Applicable Regulations

The procedures outlined in this document are designed to include the requirements of the:

- [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) and [Regulation 2016 \(TOMSR\)](#)
- [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) and [Regulation 2018 \(TOMPR\)](#)

- [International maritime dangerous goods code \(IMDG\)](#) Australian Standard – AS3846 – 2005
- International Ships and Ports Security Code (ISPS Code)
- [Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003 and Regulations](#).

Additionally, they will also complement the procedures of:

- [North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited \(NQBP\)](#)
- [Mackay City Council \(MCC\)](#)
- [Maritime Safety Queensland \(MSQ\)](#)
- [Australian Maritime Safety Authority \(AMSA\)](#)
- [Australian Border Force \(ABF\)](#)
- [Department of Home Affairs](#)
- [Royal Australian Navy \(RAN\)](#).

as they relate to ship movements within the jurisdiction of the RHM.

1.8 Standard for Commercial Marine Activities

The [Standard for Commercial Marine Activities—Mackay region](#) has been introduced to enhance the safety of commercial vessel activities in the region.

Compliance with the standard ensures the RHM is aware of the commercial activities that are being undertaken within Mackay and Hay Point, allows VTS to monitor the activities and provides visibility of the activities for all users of the region's waterways.