

Port of Thursday Island



PORT HANDBOOK

PORT HANDBOOK

This document is a Port directory describing the general characteristics and facilities at the Port of Thursday Island. The information contained in this document is produced in good faith and according to the knowledge available to Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (FNQPC) t/a Ports North at the time of publication. No warranty is given as to its accuracy. Any relevant service provider either included or not included in this Directory is welcome to email Ports North at enquiries@portsnorth.com.au for correction or consideration of inclusion of its details in the next edition.

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FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED (FNQPC)

OVERVIEW

Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited, trading as Ports North, is the Port Authority for the Port of Thursday Island and eight other Ports throughout the Far North.

Ports North's trading Ports handle bulk shipments of fuel, zinc, silica sand, sugar and molasses as well as live cattle and general cargo. Community Ports supply neighbouring areas with essential general cargo and fuel,

THE PORT OF THURSDAY ISLAND

Description

The Port of Thursday Island (also known as Port Kennedy) is a Community Port located in a natural harbour in the Torres Strait in the northern-most part of Australia. While the Torres Strait is a major shipping channel for Australia linking the Coral Sea in the east with the Arafura Sea in the west, the Port is not designed for international trading vessels.

Ports North's owned wharf facilities are established on both Thursday Island and the neighbouring Horn Island.

Also known as TI or Waiben, Thursday Island is the administrative and commercial centre of the Torres Strait Islands. The Port services the needs of Thursday and Horn Islands and also operates as a major trans-shipment point for the supply of essential cargoes to other islands of the Torres Strait. Due to its strategic location, the Port also serves as a base for a number of Government agencies, including Customs and Fisheries Patrols.

Facilities

Ports North's facilities on Thursday Island include multi-user facilities at the main wharf for general cargo, Engineer's wharf for ferry passengers and a multi-user fuel wharf used for refuelling of small craft.

On Horn Island, Ports North's facilities include the Cargo Facility and Passenger Facility. Ports North also owns a major fuel storage facility on Horn Island, which is leased and operated by a local company.

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Trade

In 2019-20, general cargo trade of 65,511 tonnes passed through the Port and 442 vessels visited the port.

Transport Links

Thursday Island is situated 35 km north of Cape York and the main access to the region is by boat or plane. The island has an area of about 3.5 km² with an estimated population of 3,500.

Cairns is the nearest regional centre and it is about 802 km from Thursday Island on the Australian mainland.

Airport

The closest airport is located on Horn Island and provides daily flights to Cairns Airport (1 hour 45 minute flight). Cairns Airport provides both domestic and international services.

Ferry

Local operators provide ferry transfers from Horn Island to Thursday Island as well as to and from the mainland. Horn Island is separated from Thursday Island by Ellis Channel. The short ferry journey departs hourly.

PORT AUTHORITY ROLE AT THURSDAY ISLAND

As the Port Authority for Thursday Island, Ports North's key roles are to:

- manage and develop reliable, appropriate Port facilities and infrastructure to cater for existing and future trade needs;
- maintain appropriate levels of Port security and safety;
- co-ordinate emergency response;
- protect the environment by minimising impact of development; and
- be committed to and have regard for the interests of the Community.

Maintaining navigable Port depths is Ports North's responsibility, while pilotage and Port navigation is controlled by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ).

In general, Ports North uses outside service providers for stevedoring and towage operations. Local businesses that provide these services are listed in the shipping contacts directory, at the end of this handbook.

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KEY PORTS NORTH CONTACTS

**General Manager Commercial
(Cairns)**

Kevin Malone

Phone: +61 7 4052 3814

Mobile: 0409 552 425

Email: kevin.malone@portsnorth.com.au

**Senior Port Supervisor / Deputy Security
Officer
(Thursday Island)**

Greg Kirk

Phone: +61 7 4069 1405

Email: greg.kirk@portsnorth.com.au

**Port Security Officer
(Cairns)**

Richard Stevenson

Phone: +61 7 4052 3851

Mobile: 0417 681 918

Email: richard.stevenson@portsnorth.com.au

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE:
24 hours – 7 days**

Ports North Duty Officer

Phone: +61 7 4051 2558

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TERMINAL OPERATOR ROLE AT THURSDAY ISLAND

As Thursday Island is a Community Port, there are no berthing facilities to cater for international shipping. There are facilities for coastal shipping and local ferry and charter services. There are draught restrictions at the berths and contact should be made to the Regional Harbour Master's office for the latest information.

REGIONAL HARBOUR MASTER ROLE AT THURSDAY ISLAND

Shipping legislation in Queensland is controlled by MSQ, a State Government agency attached to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, whose role is to protect Queensland's waterways and the people who use them by providing safer and cleaner seas.

Regional Harbour Master's 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 and aids to navigation; and
- encouraging and supporting innovation in the maritime industry.

State waters extend to the first three nautical miles of the territorial sea from the coastline. 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.

Collectively, the Regional Harbour Master and the Port Authority have responsibility for managing the safe and efficient operation of the Port.

CONTACT

For operational maritime questions, marine incidents, pollution, pilotage, buoy moorings, navigation aids and towage requirements please contact the Regional Harbour Master's office. The Regional Harbour Master's office is located at:

Physical Address: 100 – 106 Tingira St, Portsmith QLD 4870

Postal Address: PO Box 1787, Cairns QLD 4870

Phone: +61 7 4052 7400

Fax: +61 7 4052 7427

Email: RHMCairns@msq.qld.gov.au

After Hours Emergency: 1300 551 899

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PORT CONTROL ROLE AT THURSDAY ISLAND – VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE

The Port Control Centre is situated at the Regional Harbour Master's office. For ship traffic scheduling, pollution incidents and reporting defective navigation aids, please direct initial enquiries to the Port Control Centre.

Call sign "TI VTS" is provided by MSQ and provides a 24 hour, seven day a week marine operations service to the Port community. They are contactable on:

VHF Radio: VHF 12 and 16

Phone: +61 7 4052 7470

Fax: +61 7 4052 7460

Email: vtscairns@msq.qld.gov.au

NOTE: There is a local MSQ office on Thursday Island. It is an operations base only and contact is by telephone +61 7 4069 1353 or fax +61 7 4069 2190.

SERVICES – NAVIGATION

Location

The Port of Thursday Island is located between Latitude 10° 34' south and Longitude 142° 13' east.

Port Limits

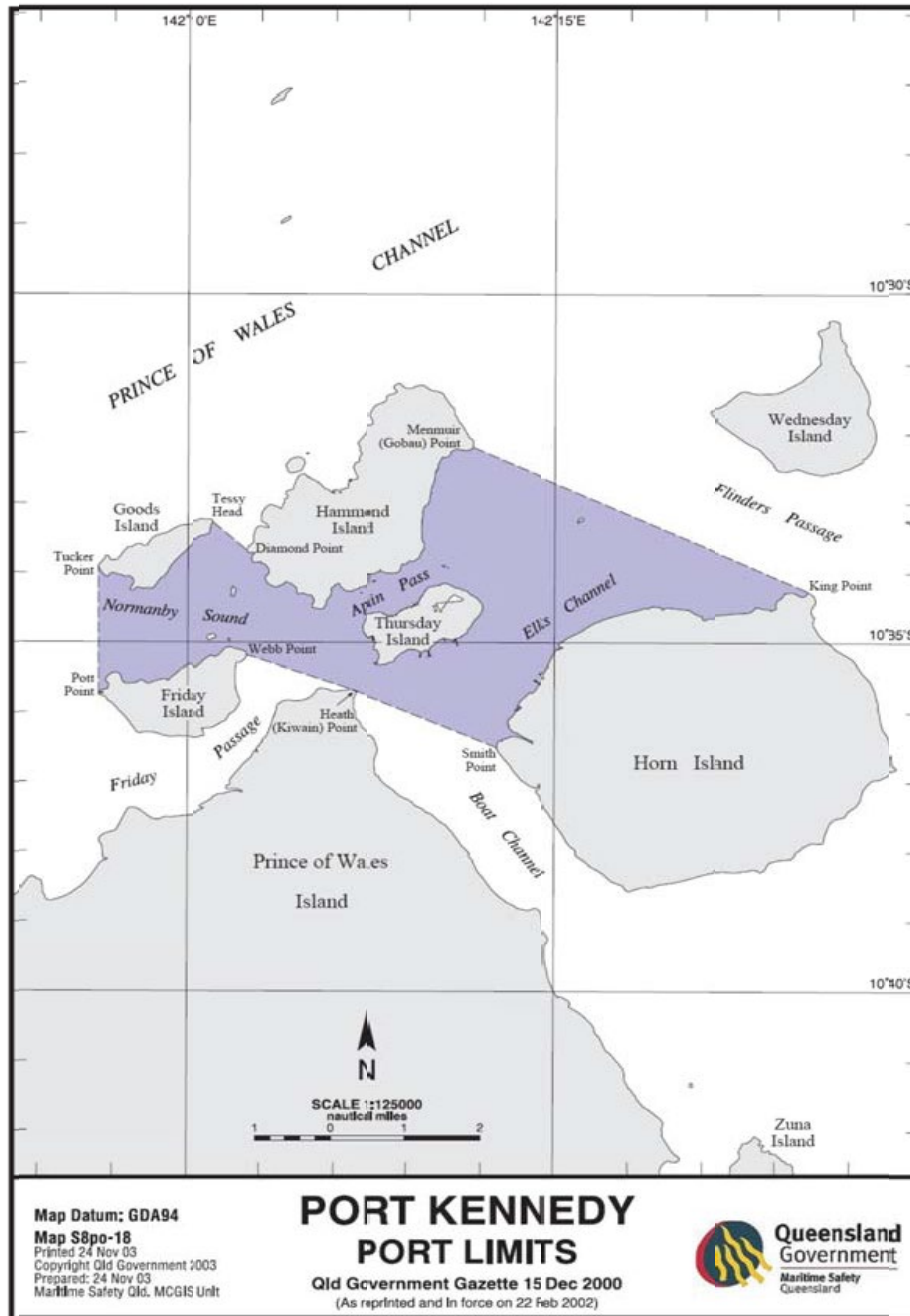
The Port limits, which are defined in the regulations of the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, are highlighted on the map below and extend between Horn Island to Hammond Island, taking in the waters around Thursday Island. Specifically, the Port limits include the following:

- starting at the high water mark at the western extremity of Smith Point on Horn Island;
- to the high water mark at the northern extremity of Heath Point (also known as Kiwain Point) on Prince of Wales Island;
- to the high water mark at the eastern extremity of Webb Point on Friday Island;
- along the high water mark of Friday Island, initially in a westerly direction, to the western extremity of Friday Island;
- to the high water mark at the western extremity of Tucker Point on Goods Island;
- along the high water mark of Goods Island, initially in a south-easterly direction, to the eastern extremity of Tessy Head on Goods Island;
- to the high water mark at the western extremity of Hammond Island (known as Diamond Point);
- along the high water mark of Hammond Island, initially in a south-easterly direction, to the eastern extremity of Menmuir Point (also known as Gobau Point) on Hammond Island;

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- to the high water mark at the northern extremity of King Point on Horn Island; and
- along the high water mark of Horn Island, initially in a westerly direction, returning to the starting point.

The Port limits also include the navigable waters of rivers and creeks flowing, directly or indirectly, into the waters described above.



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ANCHORAGES

Check 'Notice to Mariners' at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/thursday-island-notices-to-mariners> or contact the Regional Harbour Master's Office by telephone on +61-7-4052 7400 or via email RHMCairns@msg.qld.gov.au for current anchorage information.

BERTH FACILITIES

Due to draught restrictions, there are limits on the size of vessels which can use the berthing facilities at Thursday Island. Contact the Regional Harbour Master's Office by telephone on +61-7-4052 7400 or via email RHMCairns@msg.qld.gov.au for current information on restrictions to berthing facilities.

Hovell Bar:	3.2m
Main Wharf:	3.1m (4.3 alongside wharf)
Caltex Wharf:	3.0m
Engineers Wharf:	4.3m
Horn Is. Passage:	4.8m
Inner Harbour:	4.9m

NOTE: These are subject to change. Check 'Notice to Mariners' for Port of Thursday Island at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/thursday-island-notices-to-mariners> for current depth information.

PILOTAGE

General

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1995* specifies that unless a current Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC) is held by the Master of a ship pilotage is compulsory for:

- a ship that is 50m or more;
- a foreign flag ship that is 35m or more;
- a vessel towing another vessel where the combined length of the vessels is 50m or more;
- a ship whose Owner or Master asks for the services of a Pilot; and
- a ship whose Master is directed by the Regional Harbour Master to use the services of a Pilot.

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Request for Pilot

The requirements of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* shall be observed for all bookings. MSQ provides a pilotage service for ship arrivals, departures and removals. All Pilot transfers are carried out by Pilot launch.

Notice Required (For Pilotage and Berth)

Ships requiring the services of a Pilot in the Port of Thursday Island are required to submit Arrival, Removal and Departure notices no less than the indicated number of hours before the desired movement:

Arrivals 48 hours

Removals 24 hours

Departures 24 hours

Initial notification should be made via email vtscairns@msq.qld.gov.au.

Special conditions may apply in the pilotage area of Thursday Island for ships less than 50m in length. These conditions may be applied to ship movements in specific locations within the pilotage area, namely channels with restrictive depths or widths. If applicable, they will be determined by the Regional Harbour Master and provided at the time of the initial notification of arrival.

Check 'Notice to Mariners' for the Port of Thursday Island at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/thursday-island-notices-to-mariners> or contact the Regional Harbour Master's Office by telephone on +61 7 4052 7400 or via email RHMCairns@msq.qld.gov.au for current pilotage information.

Tides

Tides can vary up to 3m, while currents can exceed 8 knots through Normanby Sound. Strong, complex tides and currents that are poorly understood potentially make the Strait a hazardous place for shipping.

Tugs

There are no tug services at the Port.

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SERVICES - OPERATION

Application to Berth

For coastal shipping vessels, contact the Regional Harbour Master's Office on +61 7 4052 7400 or via email RHMCairns@msq.qld.gov.au for current berthing information.

Bunkering

Bunkering services are available through Sea Swift. See the contacts section at the end of this handbook for further details.

Communications

Call on VHF Channel 16 and work on VHF Channels 6 and 14. Call Sign 'Thursday Island Harbour'.

Cyclone Procedures

Detailed cyclone procedures are provided in the Ports North Emergency Response Plan and are consistent with the Department of Transport and Main Road's Maritime Cyclone Contingency Plan for the Port of Thursday Island. Copies of the Response Plan are held at Ports North's office in the Port, by the Regional Harbour Master in Cairns and by a number of Port users and other key agency contacts.

Alert phases in the Port provide a guide for action as a cyclone or severe heavy weather approaches an area. The alert will be announced by the Regional Harbour Master over VHF Channel 16. The Regional Harbour Master will also advise of designated mooring areas for those vessels in the Port.

Electrical Power

Shore power connection of 240 volts is available.

Emergency Services

Ports North has developed an Emergency Response Plan that covers situations such as cyclones, marine incidents, bomb threats, fire, explosion or fatalities. Copies of the Response Plan are held at Port North's office in the Port, by the Regional Harbour Master in Cairns and by a number of Port users and other key agency contacts.

Where a non-marine incident is caused through the activities of a Port user on Port land, the initial response is the responsibility of the Port user. Ports North and the appropriate agency (EPA or Torres Shire Council) must be notified immediately.

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If the incident has the potential to escalate, Ports North maintains the right to initiate external resources and response agencies to assist in reducing the impact of the incident on other Port users.

For any fire within the Port, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will respond to and fight the fire. Ports North's main building and storage area on Thursday Island has a fire hydrant system installed for fire use. There are no special fire fighting facilities available on the stems of the main wharf and engineer's wharf, apart from the normal town water and smaller hose connections.

For coordination of emergency services, contact Ports North's office on +61 7 4069 1405. For local emergency services telephone '000' and specify if fire, ambulance or police are required.

Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) Notice

For coastal shipping, ETA notice must be given to the Regional Harbour Master's office at least seven days before arrival.

Telephone +61 7 4052 7400 or email at rhmcairns@msq.qld.gov.au for current information.

Fresh Water

Fresh water is available as outlined in the Port Rules and Charges.

Fuel

Fuel is available from the Horn Island Cargo Facility and the Main Wharf on Thursday Island.

Garbage Disposal

Garbage disposal is available for small quantities, however, 12 hours notice is required. There are facilities to receive quarantine waste or garbage. Contact the Ports North Thursday Island office on +61 7 4069 1405 for information on garbage disposal.

Port Notices/Port Rules and Charges

Port Notices regulate the business operations of the Port. This reference document contains instructions for the Orderly Conduct of Business and Public Safety in the Port of Thursday Island. Copies are displayed at the Ports North Port office and are also available for downloading from <http://www.portsnorth.com.au>.

In addition, this document outlines the process for handling dangerous goods. A person in charge of dangerous goods who proposes to store, handle, carry, use, transport or otherwise deal with any dangerous goods within the Port must notify at least two working days before the date on which it is anticipated the dangerous goods will enter the Port by forwarding a copy of the MSQ Form No. F3217 ES 'Dangerous Cargo Report' to the Port Supervisor, Thursday Island.

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Contact the Ports North Thursday Island office on +61 7 4069 1405 for the latest information on Port Rules and Notices for Thursday Island.

Pratique/Health Regulations

Thursday Island is a First Port of Entry and notification of quarantine inspection is required for vessels arriving from overseas.

Details on quarantine procedures and requirements for Thursday Island and the Torres Strait can be found at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/nags/moving-goods-torres-strait>

For cruise ships, details on quarantine procedures can be found at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/commercial-vessels>

For vessels under 25m, details about the specific location for the quarantine clearance can be obtained from the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service office in Cairns by telephone +61 7 4030 7800. Information is also available from the Regional Harbour Master's office by telephone +61 7 4052 7400 or via email rhmcairns@msq.qld.gov.au.

Oil Spill Procedures

Thursday Island is equipped for smaller oil spills. The Ports North Port Supervisor is responsible for provision of the "first strike" response to an oil spill within the Port. MSQ provides resources out of Cairns or other centres, for larger spills.

The response plan for an oil spill is documented in the Port of Thursday Island Oil Spill Contingency Plan, which was developed and is regularly updated by Ports North. This plan is complementary to the Torres Strait Contingency Action Plan (TORRESPLAN), and the National Plan to Combat the Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (National Plan) for larger spills.

In the event of an oil spill, immediately notify the Regional Harbour Master on +61 7 4052 7400. If after hours, call 1300 551 899. Also contact the Ports North Port Supervisor by telephone on +61 7 4069 1405 or 0427 593 915. If after hours, call the Ports North 24 hour number on +61 7 4051 2558.

Restrictions

Access to the Thursday Island main wharf and loading area is restricted while loading and unloading cargo occurs. Persons requiring access, crew-members or visitors, must wear safety hard hats, safety shoes and comply with all safety regulations. Ports North is not responsible for accidents incurred by personnel who use these facilities.

Seaman's Clubs

There are no Seaman's Clubs in Thursday Island.

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Time Zone

Time is Eastern Standard Time and equates to GMT + 10 hours. All ETA and other messages should be made in local time.

Waste

There are no waste services available. There are limited refuse facilities for oil. Contact the Torres Shire Council on +61 7 4069 1336 or 0429 691 330 if after hours.

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PORT SECURITY

As Thursday Island is a Security Regulated Port under the *Maritime Transport Security Act 2003*, Ports North has an approved Maritime Security Plan. This Plan was officially approved by the Federal Office of Transport Services.

Under legislation enacted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) there is a procedure ships must follow when entering the Port. Before entering the Port of Thursday Island, the ship's Master must report directly to Ports North or via their ship's agent the following:

- International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) compliance number;
- current ship security level or any change to the ship security level while in Port;
- ship Security Officer contact details;
- list of expected visitors/contractors;
- nominated provedore;
- crew list and identification; and
- any security incident (as defined under the ISPS code or maritime transport security legislation) while in Port.

Contacts

PORTS NORTH

Port Security Officer (PSO)

Richard Stevenson

Phone: +61 7 4052 3851

Mobile: 0417 681 918

Email: richard.stevenson@portsnorth.com.au

Deputy Port Security Officer (Thursday Island)

Greg Kirk

Phone: +61 7 4069 1405

Mobile: 0427 593 915

Fax: +61 7 4069 1768

Email: greg.kirk@portsnorth.com.au

Ports North 24 Hour Duty Officer

+61 7 4051 2558

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SHIPPING CONTACTS

Agents

Carter Marine Agencies Pty Ltd

PO Box 319
Westcourt QLD 4870
Phone: +61 7 4051 1046
Fax: +61 7 4039 0685
Email: carrie@cartermarine.com

Inchcape Shipping Services

1/22 Martyn Street
Cairns QLD 4870
Phone: +61 7 4051 5211
Fax: +61 7 4051 5082
Email: Cairns@ISS-Shipping.com.au

Loban Marine

Engineers Wharf
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Mobile: 0428 141 260

Sea Swift Pty Ltd

Main Wharf
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Phone: +61 7 4069 1085
Email: ti.depot@seaswift.com.au

Horn Island (Cargo Wharf)

Phone: +61 7 4069 2009
Email: hi.depot@seaswift.com.au

Head Office: 41-45 Tingira Street

Portsmith QLD 4870
Phone: +61 7 4035 1234
Email: admin@seaswift.com.au

Port Users

Peddells Thursday Island Tours

Engineers Wharf
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Phone: +61 7 4069 1551
Email: info@peddellsferry.com.au

Rebel Marine/Thursday Island Tours

Hocking Point
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Phone: +61 7 4069 1586
Fax: +61 7 4069 1408
Email: info@rebeltours.com.au

McDonald Charters

Engineers Wharf
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Phone: 1300 664 875
Phone: 0428 180 361
Email: info@tiferry.com.au

Wis Wei Charters

Engineers Wharf
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Mobile: 0429 631 844

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Marine Pilots

Torres Pilots

65 Waiben Esplanade
Thursday Island QLD 4875
Phone: +61 7 4069 2251 (24 hours)
Fax: +61 7 4069 2252
Email: torresti@bigpond.com

Australian Reef Pilots

Thursday Island
Mobile: +61 413 878 792 (24 hours)
Email: operations@reefpilots.com.au

Commercial Diving & Ship repair

Pacific Marine Group

PO Box 1155
Townsville QLD 4810
Phone: +61 7 4724 2200
Email: info@pacificmarinegroup.com.au
Web: www.pacificmarinegroup.com.au

NOTE: Any vessel requiring repairs must advise their agent well before arrival at Thursday Island.

PORTS NORTH CONTACTS

General Manager Commercial

Kevin Malone

Phone: +61 7 4052 3814
Mobile: 0409 552 425
Email: kevin.malone@portsnorth.com.au

Senior Port Supervisor (Thursday Island)

Greg Kirk

Phone: +61 7 4069 1405
Email: greg.kirk@portsnorth.com.au

Emergency Response: 24 hours – 7 days

Ports North Duty Officer

Phone: +61 7 4051 2558

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REGIONAL HARBOUR MASTER CONTACTS

Physical Address: 100 – 106 Tingira Street, Portsmith QLD 4870

Postal Address: GPO Box 1787, Cairns QLD 4870

Phone: +61 7 4052 7400

Fax: +61 7 4035 1127

Email: RHMCairns@msq.qld.gov.au

After Hours Emergency: 1300 551 899

GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY CONTACTS

Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

82 Northborne Avenue

Braddon ACT 2612

Internet: www.amsa.gov.au

Shipping Emergencies, Major Oil Pollution, Ship Reporting (AUSREP)

Phone: 1800 641 792 (24 hours) or

+61 2 6230 6811

Australian Customs

2 Victoria Parade

Thursday Island QLD 4875

Phone: +61 7 4083 1800

Incident reporting:

Phone: 1800 06 1800 (free call)

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

Ground Floor, Pearls Building

38 Victoria Parade

Thursday Island QLD 4875

Phone: +61 7 4212 0185

Department of Home Affairs

Aviation and Maritime Security Division

PO Box 25

Belconnen ACT 2616

General Enquiries: Phone: +61 2 6274 7111

Fax: +61 2 6257 2505

www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/security

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

100 – 106 Tingira Street Portsmith QLD 4870

Phone: +61 7 4052 7400

Fax: +61 7 4035 1127

Email: rhmcairns@msq.qld.gov.au

R

Marine Incidents / Marine Pollution (After hours)

Phone: 1300 551 899

Torres Shire Council

68 Douglas Street

Thursday Island QLD 4875

Phone: +61 7 4069 1336

A/Hours Emergency: 0429 691 330

Email: info@torres.qld.gov.au

Torres Strait Regional Authority

First Floor, Torres Strait Haus

46 Victoria Pde

Thursday Island QLD 4875

Phone: +61 7 4069 0700

Phone: 1800 079 093 (free call)

Email: info@tsra.gov.au

Reporting of security incidents:

Phone: 1300 791 581