



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2019

DREDGING STARTS ON OUTER HARBOR CHANNEL WIDENING

Dredging has started today to widen the Outer Harbor shipping channel and swing basin at Port Adelaide.

The \$80 million project, funded by Flinders Ports, means Port Adelaide will be able to accommodate the world's largest cruise ships and the larger and more efficient 'Post Panamax' container ships.

Flinders Ports CEO, Stewart Lammin, said the channel widening will underpin the port's \$14 billion a year contribution to the State's economy.

"Once this project is completed in September, we will be on an equal footing with ports around Australia and the globe," Mr Lammin said.

"Post Panamax' container ships are increasingly dominating global containerised cargo transport. This project is essential to Adelaide remaining competitive with other Australian ports, which can already cater for these vessels.

"We will also be able to accommodate some of the world's largest cruise ships, which will provide a significant boost for our tourism sector.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, David Ridgway, welcomed Flinders Ports' significant investment which he said will further strengthen South Australia's burgeoning trade and tourism industries and ensures the state is globally competitive.

"Ultimately, this project will increase the State's export capacity and capability which will have enormous positive flow-on benefits for local business and jobs.

"For a state like ours we rely on global trade for much of our prosperity and having the ability to attract some of the world's largest vessels – such as the Post Panamax and larger cruise liners – is fantastic news for South Australia.

"This investment by Flinders Ports sends a very clear message that SA is open for business."

Mr Lammin said significant preparatory work and consultation had been undertaken before project commencement to minimise the environmental impact of the channel widening program and maximise the ongoing health of South Australia's marine environment.

"We have been working with representatives of the EPA, Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), to identify any risks and establish strategies and protocols for addressing them," Mr Lammin said.

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“Central to that is the use of state-of-the-art equipment by world-leading dredge contractor, Boskalis, to minimise turbidity, loss of seagrass and any impact on fauna, adherence to an agreed seasonal window and the imposition of comprehensive risk management protocols.

“Our project team will use real time monitoring throughout the project to monitor turbidity levels and water quality, and strict measures are in place to alter or suspend dredging should set trigger limits be exceeded.”

Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal, located at Outer Harbor, currently supports more than 6,000 jobs. South Australian exports through the port exceed \$8 billion annually and imports, approximately \$6.5 billion.

BACKGROUND

- The Outer Harbor Channel Widening project will cost \$80 million. Privately-owned Flinders Ports will fund the project.
- The project will be completed in September.
- The channel will be widened by 40 metres to 170 metres.
- The Outer Harbor swing basin (turning area for ships within the port) will be widened by 55 metres to 560 metres.
- Approximately 1.55 million cubic metres of material will be removed from the channel and swing basin.
- Dredge material consists primarily of shelly sand and silt, with some clays and limestone.
- Dredge material will be placed in a designated zone 30km offshore in Gulf St Vincent. It is the same location used for dredge material placement when the Outer Harbor shipping channel was deepened in 2005.
- The widened channel will accommodate Post Panamax vessels – which are up to 49 metres wide and 366 metres long – compared with Panamax vessels at 32 metres wide and 294 metres long. (To give some sense of scale, Adelaide Oval is 124 metres wide and 167 metres long – less than half the length of a Post Panamax vessel).
- Post Panamax ships can carry up to 13,000 containers, compared with 5,000 containers for Panamax ships.
- The size of cruise ships that will be able to access the port will increase from 42.2 metres in width to 49 metres in width.
- The cruise ship industry is the fastest growing tourism sector in South Australia.
- 99 per cent of South Australia’s exports and imports by weight are transported by sea. A significant portion is containerised.
- Flinders Ports operates seven ports in South Australia – Port Adelaide, Port Giles, Port Lincoln, Port of Wallaroo, Port Pirie, Klein Point and Thevenard Port.

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