

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Wrecks to go from Torres Strait

Maritime Safety Queensland is about to remove 13 derelict vessels left to decay in the pristine waters of Torres Strait.

Maritime Safety Queensland general manager Angus Mitchell said tenders were being called to have the eyesores removed in a single operation under the War on Wrecks program.

"These vessels pose a significant risk to navigation and the environment, and worryingly have the potential to break up in bad weather over the coming summer," Mr Mitchell said.

"Putting the removal of these vessels out to tender as one contract means cost savings and economies of scale.

"This is no small task, and it is anticipated the removals will take several weeks to complete.

"Cleaning up the state's waterways and using Queensland businesses to do it is the priority."

Mr Mitchell said the tender was now open through QTender with work expected to be underway before Christmas.

"Queensland-based businesses, and particularly those based in the Cairns region, are encouraged to tender," he said.

"Maritime Safety Queensland will monitor the works to ensure required safety standards are met and advise boating traffic of the activity."

Mr Mitchell said the removal of the derelict vessels marked a new phase in the War on Wrecks program as it progressed beyond the halfway mark.

"Vessel owners have the responsibility to maintain their vessels to the necessary standard, or dispose of them appropriately, so they don't become hazards to the environment or safe navigation," he said.

"Where they have failed to do so, Maritime Safety Queensland will step in to remove the vessels and keep our waterways safe and clean.

"We also have regulatory powers to seek costs through the courts where we think there is a reasonable prospect of recovery."

For more information visit <https://qtenders.hpw.qld.gov.au/qtenders/>

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