

28 October 2024

### **Cross border oil spill simulation exercise rolling out on the Gold and Tweed Coasts**

- Maritime Safety Queensland will join NSW and Federal Maritime authorities to practice response during a simulated oil spill drill on the Queensland and NSW border between 28 and 30 October.
- For the duration of the exercise, there will be temporary closures to two small sections of Roughton Park, Kirra, and Winders Park, Currumbin.
- Pollution response equipment will be deployed at Currumbin Creek near the Gold Coast Highway, with the public being urged to take caution while remaining accessible to the public.

State and Federal maritime authorities will practice their response to a simulated major marine incident in Gold Coast and Tweed River waters, including Currumbin Creek, in a two-day exercise designed to test cross-jurisdictional arrangements for a real event.

Exercise Dumaresq 24 will take place between 28-30 October and will be co-led by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) and Transport for NSW (TNSW).

The exercise will be a controlled, simulated event, intended to assist authorities to prepare for a real event.

Public access will be limited at Roughton Park and Winders Park, while a section of Currumbin Creek near the Gold Coast Highway will see pollution response equipment deployed. Currumbin Creek will remain open, but the public are asked to take caution for the duration of the exercise.

Maritime Safety Queensland is respectfully asking the public not to approach participants involved in the exercise.

Australia's economy and lifestyle are heavily dependent on the import and export of goods via large trading ships - exercises such as this one are key to being prepared to protect the environment and public safety in the event of an on-water incident.

The simulated exercise will have no impact on community safety, the environment, cultural assets, local businesses or sporting and recreational activities.

Exercise Dumaresq 24 will be undertaken under arrangements Australia has in place under the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies (*National Plan*) for responding to a major maritime emergency.

### **Quotes attributable to Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager, Kell Dillon:**

"Exercise Dumaresq 24 offers Maritime Safety Queensland a great opportunity to work with other agencies to activate and test their marine pollution response arrangements, to make sure we are ready for the real thing.

“Through the exercise alongside our Federal and NSW colleagues, Maritime Safety Queensland will be working to ensure our pollution response arrangements are coordinated, robust and fit for purpose.

“While shipping incidents that match the size of the simulated event in the exercise are not common in Australia, the consequences for the environment and communities of a real incident can be significant, so it is critical to be prepared.

“The public will see lots of movement, people and action around some areas of the Gold Coast and the Tweed, but we want everyone to know it is just an exercise, rather than a real oil spill.”

**ENDS**

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