

MEDIA RELEASE

5 July 2022

UPDATE 0600 Hours: MV Portland Bay update

Please attribute the below to Port Authority of NSW CEO Captain Philip Holliday or Port Authority of NSW Spokesperson.

The operation to tow the vessel Portland Bay into deeper water last night stalled late in the evening when tow lines broke in the extreme weather and ocean conditions.

As a result, the ship was moved northwards towards a more sheltered location where she is now sitting safely approximately 1.2 nautical miles off Port Botany with both anchors deployed and secured. One tug remains connected and whilst another remains close by.

With 11 metre swells experienced last night, an operational decision was made to suspend further attempts to tow the ship out to sea.

The crew of the MV Portland Bay has been unable to make the repairs required on board and the incident team's preference at this time is to bring the ship into Port Botany when the weather abates so repairs can be undertaken in the safety of a berth and port environment.

Based on current weather forecasts, it is expected that the ship will remain off shore until at least Wednesday.

An additional tug with heavy duty emergency equipment is travelling from Newcastle and is expected to arrive at Port Botany in the early afternoon today to provide further assistance.

The ship is maintaining its position and the crew are safe, their safety and the safety of our frontline responders remains the highest priority.

The ongoing severe weather conditions makes moving the MV Portland Bay extremely hazardous so the vessel is being supported in position until the weather eases.

Next media update expected mid-morning.

MEDIA CONTACT: Gabrielle Last 0437695859

YAMBA

PO Box 143
Yamba NSW 2464
T: 61 2 6646 2002

NEWCASTLE

PO Box 663
Newcastle NSW 2300
T: 61 2 4985 8222

SYDNEY

PO Box 25
Millers Point NSW 2000
T: 61 2 9296 4999

PORT KEMBLA

PO Box 89
Port Kembla NSW 2505
T: 61 2 4275 0100

EDEN

PO Box 137
Eden NSW 2551
T: 61 2 66461596