

MEDIA RELEASE

5 July 2022

UPDATE 1300HRS: Long Days Ahead for Portland Bay Operation

The multiagency response team being led by Port Authority of NSW is preparing for slow and steady progress in challenging conditions as weather continues to hamper the response to move the MV Portland Bay after she lost power south of Sydney.

Port Authority CEO Captain Philip Holliday said the vessel remains at anchor with both anchors down in a position 1.2 nautical miles off Botany Bay near Cronulla Beach.

“The crew is taking every opportunity while in this situation to undertake repairs to their engines,” Captain Philip Holliday.

“Two tugs remain on site with the vessel today and I’m pleased that in the currently stable environment all crew have had the opportunity to refresh and get some rest after working in these extremely difficult and hazardous conditions throughout yesterday and overnight.

“The third Emergency Tow Vessel (ETV), Glenrock has also arrived onsite after punching through southerly headwinds and over 10metre seas during the passage from Newcastle.

“The specialized vessel with additional deep sea response capability, Glenrock, will be key in the next phase when moving the Portland Bay to safety.

“The priority of this operation remains the safety of all involved and protecting the NSW coastline. All agencies involved are being extremely vigilant in planning every step we take to this end.

“The plan today is to keep the vessel stable in the current location with tugs ready and available so we can affect a tow if needed, but otherwise keep her where she is as we await an improved weather window to bring her into Port Botany.”

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