

MEDIA RELEASE

6 July 2022

Port Authority Praises Responders for Vessel Response

Port Authority of NSW CEO Captain Philip Holliday praised all agencies involved in the successful multiagency response that brought the MV Portland Bay safely into Port Botany this afternoon after its engines failed.

“From the moment Port Authority was appointed incident controller at 10.20am on Monday, 4 July, protecting people and the environment was at the heart of this operation and every decision,” Captain Holliday said.

“I would like to acknowledge the heroic efforts of the towage crews who worked day and night to keep all aboard MV Portland Bay safe.

“The professionalism and skill of the mariners involved were on display for the world to see in truly atrocious conditions. Thank you for your tireless efforts over the past three days.

“Behind the scenes, a multifaceted group of professionals worked tirelessly to make this operation a success – too many to call out by name but know it was the cumulative impact of everyone’s efforts together that made the difference.

“Keeping the vessel stable and away from the coastline, then ultimately, bringing the vessel in for further repairs was a complex task in very challenging conditions.

“The Master of the MV Portland Bay’s actions contributed to the success of keeping the vessel and his crew safe as part of the difficult operation.”

Captain Holliday said he was incredibly proud of staff and called out the performance and commitment of the Incident Management Team. He also thanked all agencies involved including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Engage Towage, Svitzer Australia, Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopters and Surf Lifesaving NSW, NSW Ports and the port community at Port Botany, Transport for NSW, NSW Police, Marine Area Command, NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Heritage, State Emergency Operations Centre, the Regional Emergency Management Office and, of course, the team at Port Authority of NSW.

The crew are reported to be well and relieved to have reached the safety of the port where they will conduct further repairs.

AMSA has now assumed responsibility for the vessel's safety and repairs.

VISION <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qvr59w365f5e99h/AAAMECDc-dXdSpjwzBLm8rrQa?dl=0>

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