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Developing an Optimised Channel Design

As South East Queensland continues to grow, the Port of Brisbane is planning to make sure the Port can continue to meet future trade and transport needs.

The Port of Brisbane's proposed Channel Enhancement Project (CEP) is a long-term plan designed to ensure the shipping channel remains safe, efficient and capable of supporting larger, modern vessels into the future.

What's happening now?

Work is progressing on the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) following the release of the final Terms of Reference on 10 September 2025. As part of this process, the Port of Brisbane project team has been undertaking detailed studies and investigations to review and refine the project's design.

These studies are focused on identifying the most efficient and sustainable design options within the channel corridor and port limits that were initially outlined in the project's Initial Advice Statement (IAS).

Listening to stakeholders and refining the design

Over recent months, the Port has undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders to help shape the project. This has included feedback from:

- Local community members and recreational groups
- Industry representatives including the fishing industry
- Environmental groups
- Government agencies
- First Nations groups and bodies.

This feedback has helped inform improvements to the proposed design.

What has changed?

The project team is now considering an optimised channel design, with key refinements including:

- Reduced channel widths in some areas that maintain navigational safety and operational objectives, but will lower the overall volume of material required to be dredged
- Identification of a preferred option for placement of dredged material, aimed at improving efficiency and environmental outcomes.

While further investigations are ongoing, the proposed Dredge Material Placement Area (DMPA) options shown in the Initial Advice Statement (IAS) at Northern Deepwater (offshore from Caloundra) and Juno Point (proposed reclamation on the northern bank of the Brisbane River) have now been ruled out and will not be progressed further as part of the EIS process.

What's next?

Over the next 18 months, the EIS will continue with detailed technical studies, including:

- Coastal processes and modelling
- Marine ecology and water quality
- Visual amenity
- Cultural heritage
- Economic and social impact assessments.

Project studies and engagement activities will continue throughout 2026, including community and industry workshops. The findings from these studies will be used to prepare the draft EIS, which is expected to be submitted in mid-2027.

Stay involved

Community input is an important part of the EIS process. If you'd like to stay informed about the project or take part in future engagement activities, you can register your interest by completing the stakeholder engagement questionnaire on the project website.

Visit the Port of Brisbane's major projects page at:
www.portbris.com.au

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