



Why the Channel Enhancement Project Matters

Project overview

The Port of Brisbane's Channel Enhancement Project (CEP) is a proposed 25-year infrastructure program led by Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL), aimed at preparing the Port for future trade and population growth in South East Queensland.

The CEP aims to ensure the shipping channel servicing the port improves efficiency, reduces vessel emissions, and caters for the future needs of the global shipping market.

The project includes:

- deepening and widening of existing navigational channels
- enhancement of the East Knoll Bypass Channel
- minor realignments to improve navigational flow and safety.

The CEP has been declared a 'coordinated project' by the Queensland Government and a controlled action by the Commonwealth Government, requiring a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared prior to an approval decision.



Why the project matters

The Port of Brisbane is critical to Queensland's economy, supporting the movement of goods that keep our communities and industries running. As South East Queensland's population grows, so too does demand for imported goods, construction materials, fuel, and everyday essentials. The Port is key infrastructure enabling this growth, and its capacity must be enhanced to match the region's needs.

At the same time, global shipping is evolving. Container vessels are becoming larger to maximise efficiency and reduce costs, with 14,000 twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) ships expected to become regular visitors to Australia's east coast. While Brisbane regularly accommodates ships between 3,000 and 6,000 TEU, larger vessels up to 9,000 TEU are already visiting more frequently. Without channel enhancements, there is a genuine risk that Brisbane could be bypassed, risking trade, investment, and job security in Queensland.

Recognising these trends, Infrastructure Australia has identified the expansion of deep-water port capacity on the east coast as a national infrastructure priority. The CEP directly responds to this need, ensuring Brisbane remains globally competitive and can meet future freight demands.

Brisbane is part of an integrated east coast trade network. Falling behind in port capability could lead to long-term inefficiencies, economic loss, and reduced competitiveness for Queensland. The CEP is about future-proofing Queensland's trade gateway, ensuring the Port of Brisbane secures its role in the national supply chain and global economy for decades to come.



Benefits of the project

BENEFIT	WHAT IT MEANS
Increased safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer navigation for larger modern vessels in line with International Maritime Design Standards. • Ensuring the channel is as safe as it can be. • Supports improved navigational outcomes.
Greater shipping efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster, more direct access to the Port. • Reduced ship waiting times and associated emissions. • More resilient infrastructure to manage unexpected demand and future growth.
Environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive environmental assessment (EIS) process to manage and minimise impacts. • Design aims to lower emissions and protect Moreton Bay's ecological health. • Reduced potential risk of incidents that could affect water quality and marine life.
Future-proofing trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports trade requirements associated with SEQ future population growth. • Enables Brisbane to accommodate larger vessels and rising freight volumes. • Protects long-term trade, jobs and investment in Queensland. • Aligns with national freight and economic resilience strategies.

How the project will be funded

PBPL has committed to initiating the approvals process. A funding model will be explored as part of the environmental impact statement. No construction or financial commitments have been made at this early stage.

More information

PBPL will progress the proposed Channel Enhancement Project through the Queensland Government's coordinated project processes.

Detailed information about the EIS process is available at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general.

Information about the proposed Channel Enhancement Project is available at: www.portbris.com.au.

