

NAVIGATION & PILOTAGE

The Port of Cairns is a section 15 (first port of entry) facility, located at 16°55.5'S latitude and 145°47'E longitude. Deep water passage to Cairns through the Great Barrier Reef is available via the Grafton passage from the East, or the inner reef passage via the Torres Strait.

Navigation

For information on pilotage, speed limits, dangerous goods, surveys, manning certificates and boating safety, advice should be sought from the Cairns Regional Harbour Master, Maritime Safety Queensland.

Contact:

64-66 Tingira Street, Portsmith
PO Box 1787
Cairns, Queensland, 4870
T: +61 (0) 7 4052 7400
F: +61 (0) 7 4035 1127

Click here for a link to the site of the Department of Transport and Main Roads Port Procedures Manual for Navigation in and out of the Port of Cairns.

Cairns Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)

All vessels entering the Port of Cairns are required to contact "Cairns VTS: on Channel 12 VHF prior to entering or exiting Cairns Harbour.

Prevailing Winds

The prevailing winds are south-easterlies with northerlies occurring from October to February.

Operating Restrictions

The Port of Cairns is an all-weather port outside the cyclone season which runs from approximately November through to April. (Draft and tidal restrictions may apply).

Ship Reporting Systems

Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Vessel Traffic Service (REEFVTS).

Radio Call Identity: REEFVTS Radio Call Sign: VZQ641

Entrance Channel

Access to the Port is via a channel 10km west of Cape Grafton with Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) depth of 8.3m, width of 90m and length of 13km.

Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels over 50m and 35m in Smiths Creek unless the Master holds a current Pilotage Exemption Certificate. Pilotage services are available 24 hours per day.

Contact:

Cairns Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)
to arrange pilotage prior to arrival.
T: +61 (0) 7 4052 7470

Radio Communication

A VHF radio service is maintained by Ports North on Channel 16 (156.8MHz) with the call sign "Cairns Marlin Marina" for Marina activities and call sign "Cairns Harbour" for all other Seaport activities.

Tidal Information

Tide levels as related to Cairns Port Datum which is 1.643m below Australian Height Datum are:

Mean High Water (Springs)	2.57m
Mean Low Water (Springs)	0.74m
Mean High Water (Neaps)	1.88m
Mean Low Water (Neaps)	1.44m
Mean Level	1.7m
Highest Astronomical Tide	3.50m
Lowest Astronomical Tide	0.0m

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

www.amsa.gov.au

Cairns: +61 (0) 7 4035 4487

Brisbane: +61 (0) 7 3001 6800

Contact Us

If you would like further information, please call **4052 3888** or email seaport.operations@portsnorth.com.au