

The Gippsland Lakes is a wetland of international significance and provides critical habitat for threatened migratory birds such as Little Terns and Fairy Terns.

Funding has been provided to improve the habitat for migratory birds at Crescent Island (near Ocean Grange) and Pelican Island (south of Nungurner) through sand nourishment and revegetation of target areas.

Parks Victoria and Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) are the joint land managers and lead proponent of this project. Gippsland Ports will use its Kalimna Cutter Suction Dredge (CSD) to provide sand nourishment at specified sites. Biodiversity staff from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will be responsible for ensuring the ecological requirements of the different bird species are addressed.

Approvals were sought, and issued where required, under the Coastal Management Act, Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, Wildlife Act and Animal Ethics Committee.

Works are scheduled to commence at Crescent Island from mid-May 2015 for a period of three months. Works at Pelican Island are scheduled for November 2015.

The Kalimna CSD will be located in adjacent Grange and Steamer Channels during this time. The Kalimna CSD will pump sand onto islands through a floating pipeline.

Mariners are advised to note navigation shapes and lights atop the Kalimna CSD to indicate the correct side to pass. (See notes and diagrams below).

Steamer Channel realignment

Gippsland Ports will also be performing dredging in Steamer Channel to realign a short section of the channel at the north-western tip of Crescent Island. Over the last few years there have been a number of groundings of both recreationally and commercially registered vessels on the shallow bank in the vicinity of the existing cardinal marks.

Ocean Grange and nearby Bunga Arm are very popular destinations for recreational vessels during the peak season. Gippsland Ports has received funding for this project which will also include reconfiguration of associated navigational aids to improve navigability and safety for vessels operating in this area.

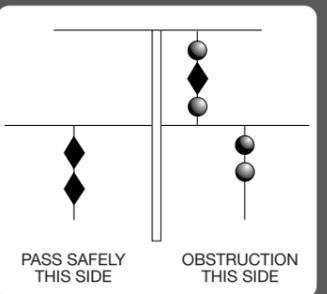
Dredged material will be placed on nearby Crescent, Waddy and Barton Islands in line with previous works and current approvals.

Steamer Channel will be closed to navigation for approximately six to eight weeks. Access to Ocean Grange and Bunga Arm will continue via the Grange Channel.

A Notice to Mariners will be issued and mariners are advised to monitor Gippsland Ports website for details: www.gippslandports.vic.gov.au/notice_to_mariners.



Vessel engaged in underwater operations or dredging
 With an obstruction on one side shall, in addition to the above shapes, carry TWO BLACK BALLS on the side of the obstruction, and TWO BLACK DIAMONDS on the side on which vessels may pass.
 BLACK BALLS ON BOTH SIDES may be used to indicate passage or channel is blocked and vessels should await instructions before proceeding.



Vessel engaged in underwater operations or dredging
 Vessel with an obstruction on one side shall, in addition to restricted ability to manoeuvre lights, carry two all-round red lights, on the side of the obstruction. Also two all-round green lights on the side that vessels may pass.

