

Sewage Management Directive

The Discharge of Sewage from Certain Vessels
into State Waters



I, Wes Ford, Director EPA, having consulted with the Director of Public Health, do issue this Directive in accordance with section 30 of the *Marine-related Incidents (MARPOL Implementation) Act 2020*.

Wes Ford

DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 11 June 2021

This Directive gives effect to section 30 of the *Marine-related Incidents (MARPOL Implementation) Act 2020*. It replaces the 2013 Directive issued under section 25CB(2)(b) of the *Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1987*, which has been repealed.

APPLICATION OF THE DIRECTIVE

This Directive applies to vessels of any type, except –

- any vessel of 400 gross tonnes or more engaging in international voyages;
- any vessel under 400 gross tonnes certified to carry more than 15 persons and engaging in international voyages; and
- any vessel which is the subject of any other directive issued in accordance with section 30 of the *Marine-related Incidents (MARPOL Implementation) Act 2020*.

PART 1

Discharge of urine from vessels:

1. Urine may be discharged from vessels provided that no part of the discharge includes any faecal material.

PART 2

Discharge of sewage that is not disinfected from vessels carrying less than 16 persons:

1. **A vessel carrying less than 16 persons may discharge sewage that is not disinfected in waters other than those described in paragraph 2 of this Part, provided that -**
 - a. no part of that sewage was produced when the vessel was carrying more than 15 persons; and
 - b. the discharge does not produce visible floating solids; and
 - c. the discharge does not cause prolonged discoloration of the receiving waters
2. **Vessels to which this Part applies must not discharge sewage that is not disinfected in any of the following waters:**
 - 2.1 any inland waters;
 - 2.2 any marina, designated mooring area or canal;
 - 2.3 any marine resources protected area established under the Living Marine Resources Act 1995;
 - 2.4 any waters less than 5metres deep;
 - 2.5 within 500m of any operating shellfish farm;
 - 2.6 The Tamar estuary upstream of the Batman Bridge;
 - 2.7 The Derwent estuary upstream of the Bowen Bridge;
 - 2.8 Payne Bay, north of a line between Curtis Point and Woody Point;
 - 2.9 James Kelly Basin, south and west of a line between Garden Point and Larsens Rocks;
 - 2.10 Bathurst Harbour and all bays and inlets therein, and Bathurst Channel and all bays and inlets therein, east of a line between Hammond Point and Forrester Point;
 - 2.11 Macquarie Harbour, east of a line between Coal Head and Steadman Point;
 - 2.12 any other waters within 1 nautical mile [1,852 metres] of any land, including islands; and
 - 2.13 within 120m of a person in the water.

PART 3

Discharge of any sewage from vessels carrying 16 or more persons:

1. A vessel -

- carrying 16 or more persons; or
- holding sewage any part of which was produced while the vessel was carrying 16 or more persons -

may discharge the sewage in waters other than those described in paragraph 2 of this Part, provided that -

- a. the discharge does not produce visible floating solids; and
- b. the discharge does not cause prolonged discoloration of the receiving waters

2. Vessels to which this Part applies must not discharge any sewage in any of the following waters:

- 2.1 any inland waters;
- 2.2 any marina, designated mooring area or canal;
- 2.3 any marine resources protected area established under the *Living Marine Resources Act 1995*;
- 2.4 any waters less than 5 metres deep;
- 2.5 within 500m of any operating shellfish farm;
- 2.6 The Tamar estuary upstream of the Batman Bridge;
- 2.7 The Derwent estuary upstream of the Bowen Bridge;
- 2.8 Payne Bay, north of a line between Curtis Point and Woody Point;
- 2.9 James Kelly Basin, south and west of a line between Garden Point and Larsens Rocks;
- 2.10 Bathurst Harbour and all bays and inlets therein, and Bathurst Channel and all bays and inlets therein, east of a line between Hammond Point and Forrester Point, except in the restricted take zone within the Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour Marine Nature Reserve, where such discharge is permitted beyond one nautical mile from land or any islands ;
- 2.11 Macquarie Harbour, east of a line between Liberty Point and Sophia Point;
- 2.12 any other waters within 1 nautical mile [1,852 metres] of any land, including islands; and
- 2.13 within 120m of a person in the water.

PART 4

Discharge of disinfected sewage from vessels carrying less than 16 persons:

1. A vessel carrying less than 16 persons may discharge sewage that is disinfected in waters other than those described in paragraph 2 of this Part provided that -

- a. no part of that sewage was produced when the vessel was carrying more than 15 persons; and
- b. the discharge does not produce visible floating solids; and
- c. the discharge does not cause prolonged discoloration of the receiving waters.

PART 4 - Continued

- 2. Vessels to which this Part applies must not discharge sewage that is disinfected in any of the following waters:**
- 2.1 any inland waters;
 - 2.2 any marina, designated mooring area or canal;
 - 2.3 any marine resources protected area established under the *Living Marine Resources Act 1995*, with the exception of waters at a distance greater than 120m from any islands in the Kent Group National Park, as noted in paragraph 2.11;
 - 2.4 any waters less than 5 metres deep;
 - 2.5 within 500m of any public wharf or public jetty;
 - 2.6 within 500m of any operating shellfish farm;
 - 2.7 from November 1 to April 30 each year – within 500m of any commonly acknowledged swimming beach;
 - 2.8 within 120m of a person in the water elsewhere;
 - 2.9 within 50m of another vessel;
 - 2.10 within 120m of any land adjacent to the waters of –
 - 2.10.1 the Derwent, Huon, Mersey & Tamar Estuaries, Macquarie Harbour, Port Davey/Payne Bay, Bathurst Harbour/Bathurst Channel and Port Arthur, (*noting that in any of those waters as defined in sub paragraphs 2.36, 2.37, 2.33, 2.35, 2.27, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26 and 2.21 respectively, no discharge is permitted*);
 - 2.10.2 North West Bay;
 - 2.10.3 the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and all bays and inlets therein;
 - 2.10.4 Frederick Henry Bay and all bays and inlets therein;
 - 2.10.5 Norfolk Bay, and all bays and inlets therein; and
 - 2.10.6 Parsons Bay;
 - 2.11 within 120m of any land in the Kent Group National Park, the Hogan Group, Curtis Group, Rodondo Island, and other islands in the area.
 - 2.12 Great Musselroe Bay Lagoon
 - 2.13 Ansons Bay;
 - 2.14 Georges Bay;
 - 2.15 North and East of a line between Fleurieu Point and Point Bagot including Coles Bay, Great Swanport, Swan River & Moulting Lagoon;
 - 2.16 Little Swanport;
 - 2.17 Waters of Spring Bay north of a line between Freestone Point and Louisville Point;
 - 2.18 Blackman Bay;
 - 2.19 Pitt Water;
 - 2.20 Pipe Clay Lagoon
 - 2.21 Stewarts Bay & Carnarvon Bay at Port Arthur;
 - 2.22 Southport Lagoon;
 - 2.23 Hastings Bay and waters west of and including Southport Narrows;
 - 2.24 Payne Bay, north of a line between Curtis Point and Woody Point;
 - 2.25 James Kelly Basin, south and west of a line between Garden Point and Larsens Rocks;

PART 4 - Continued

- 2.26 Bathurst Harbour and all bays and inlets therein, and Bathurst Channel and all bays and inlets therein, east of a line between Hammond Point and Forrester Point, except in the restricted take zone within the Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour Marine Nature Reserve, where such discharge is permitted beyond one nautical mile from land or any islands;
- 2.27 Macquarie Harbour, east of a line between Coal Head and Steadman Point;
- 2.28 Duck Bay;
- 2.29 West Inlet;
- 2.30 East Inlet;
- 2.31 Inglis River Estuary;
- 2.32 Leven River Estuary;
- 2.33 The Mersey Estuary upstream of the Bass Highway bridge;
- 2.34 Port Sorell – Rubicon Estuary;
- 2.35 The Tamar Estuary upstream of Blackwall;
- 2.36 The Derwent Estuary upstream of the Bridgewater causeway;
- 2.37 The Huon Estuary upstream of Port Huon; and
- 2.38 Any intermittently opening and closing lagoon.

Definitions:

Inland Waters means all fresh waters of the State, including lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshes, but not including privately owned waters.

Macerator means a purpose-built device that reduces the sewage to a fine slurry. Maceration will assist in achieving a discharge that does not produce visible floating solids or cause prolonged discoloration of the receiving waters.

Person in the water includes but is not limited to, swimmers, surfers, water-skiers, kayakers or canoeists, divers or snorkelers.

Privately owned waters means surface waters confined within the boundaries of privately owned land, and that do not flow into, or communicate with the sea, any arm or creek of the sea, or any lake, pond, river, stream or marsh that is beyond the boundaries of that private land.

Sewage means human faecal solid wastes and associated flushing water whether or not mixed with urine or any other wastewater.

Unless otherwise stated, “sewage” includes untreated sewage and disinfected sewage.

Disinfected sewage means sewage subjected to an on-board disinfection system to at least the following standard –

Bacterial standard

- Enterococci of 40 cells or less per 100mL

Note:

- Disinfection systems that are formaldehyde-based must not be used; and
- Maceration alone cannot achieve the required standard. Macerated sewage is therefore not disinfected sewage for the purpose of the Directive.