

9. Tugs

9.1 Tug information

Tugs are an aid to safe and efficient manoeuvring of ships in confined waterways. The requirements of this section outline the minimum number of tugs that are required to be in attendance when berthing or unberthing a ship. In special circumstances the agent may apply to the Regional Harbour Master for a reduction in the tug allocation. Such requests will be considered after due consultation with Ports North Marine Pilots.

Towage services are provided by [Svitzer Australasia](#); their north Queensland operations office is based in Cairns. There are two tugs available for towage stationed at Cairns.

Table 11 Tugs

	Bollard pull (tonnes)	H.P.	Type	Fire Fighting
Tarcoola	47	4000	Forward tractor	Class B support ship
Wajarri	47	4000	Forward tractor	Class B support ship

Company profile: Svitzer Australia provides tugs to vessels at Mourilyan

Phone: 1300 622 377

Operations email: aunthqld.operations@svitzer.com

Website: <http://www.svitzer.com>

9.2 Tug usage requirements

Pilots and masters are to assess the requirement for additional tugs on a case-by-case basis. Masters and their agents are requested to monitor the prevailing weather conditions and forecast, to ensure the initial tug allocation remains sufficient. Additional tugs should be ordered in good time.

The port tug will escort the vessel between the berth and the vicinity of number 17 beacon on departure. Tugs assigned to the departing vessel once dismissed by the pilot are to remain manned and immediately available until the outbound ship has departed the Cairns

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Channel. If the situation requires that the tug proceed further to seaward, the pilot will advise the tug master of the situation and any additional assistance required. The following tables have been produced as a guide to assist agents and masters when booking tugs.

The Regional Harbour Master may require additional tugs, or extended escorts in/out dependant of vessels defects, environmental conditions and other circumstances.

9.2.1 Arrivals (stemming tide at berth)

Table 12 Tug requirement for arriving vessels

Wharf	Less than 100 metres		100-130 metres		Greater than 130 metres	
	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing
C1-C8			1	1	2	2
C10*	Less than 80m		80–130m			
			1	1	2	2
C12*	< 100m					
			1	1	1	2
* Vessels at C12 greater than 170m LOA always swing and require two tugs. Flood tide only and rate less than 40 cm per hour.						

9.2.2 Departures (stemming tide at berth)

Table 13 Tugs required by departing vessels (stemming tide at berth)

Wharf	Less than 100 metres		100–130 metres		Greater than 130 metres	
	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing
C1-C6			1	1	2	2
C7-C8			1	1	1	2
C12			1	1	1	2

	Less than 80 metres		80–130 metres			
C10	1	1	2	2	2	2

Ships with tide astern will require additional towage when berthing and departing. Passenger ships will be individually assessed at time of booking.

- A lines launch is available where lines are required to be run to dolphins; the relevant agents must arrange this in advance.
- Austal, Tropical Reef Slip, and Norship facilities: by agreement with Yard and Pilot, Tug and workboats are normally used.
- Austal/ TRS Wharf/Masons wharf: vessels greater than 50 m tugs and workboats as required, slack water only.

9.3 Request for Tug Reduction

A ships' Master may consider it appropriate to seek a reduction in the number of tugs required for a movement. Master of the ship must submit a request to the Regional Harbour Master utilising the appropriate form for each movement.

Each request must address each of the following criteria:

- Ship's name and IMO,
- Berth and side too,
- Capacity of bow thruster,
- Condition of the bow thruster,
- Defects/restrictions with navigational and mooring equipment, steering gear and engines including auxiliary engines),
- Draft Forward and Aft,
- Displacement,
- Declaration from Master stating he has assessed the intended manoeuvre and is satisfied with the request.
- Tug reductions not applicable to passenger ships

Appendix [16.12 Application for reduction in Tugs](#) contains the appropriate form for requesting a tug reduction.

This form is to be submitted to Cairns VTS via email.

9.4 Vessels with advanced manoeuvring characteristics.

Ships with unusual manoeuvring characteristics and /or fitted with advanced manoeuvring systems will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Tug requirements are based on the vessel stemming the current when berthing and departing; manoeuvring with a contrary current may require the use of an additional tug.

Passenger ships over 240 metres are required to have 2 tugs in attendance on the first arrival to the Port of Cairns.

Tug reductions not applicable to passenger ships.

9.4.1 Arrivals (stemming tide at berth)

Table 14 Arrivals (stemming tide at berth)

Wharf	Less than 180 metres	Less than 180 metres	180 -240 metres	180 -240 metres	Greater than 240 metres	Greater than 240 metres
	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing	No Swing	Swing
C1-C6				1	1	1
C7-8				1	1	1

9.4.2 Departures (stemming tide at berth)

Table 15 Departures (stemming tide at berth)

Wharf	Less than 100 metres	Less than 100 metres	100- 200 metres	100- 200 metres	200 - 240 metres	200 - 240 metres	Greater than 240 metres	Greater than 240 metres
	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing	No swing	Swing	No Swing	Swing
C1-C6				1		1	1	1
C7-8				1		1	1	1

Tug requirement for ships/vessels departing on an EBB tide will be individually assessed at time of booking.

9.5 Part Loaded Tankers

Partly loaded tankers of between 100 and 160 meters LOA and fitted with an operational bow thruster will be subject to the following towage requirements

Arrivals

Vessel in ballasted condition – 1 tug

Vessel in part loaded condition – 2 tugs

Vessel in loaded condition – 2 tugs

Departures

Vessel in loaded condition – 1 tug

Vessels with tide astern will require additional towage or as determined by the Regional Harbour Master - Cairns

9.6 Additional Information

9.6.1 Vessels turning in Crystal Swing Basin

Max LOA for Passenger vessels turning in Crystal Swing Basin when C1-3 is occupied is 230 meters.

9.6.2 Bow and stern thrusters

This section is not applicable to passenger ships

A bow or stern thruster of sufficient power may count as one tug. The thruster is to be in working order and effective. An application is to be made to the RHM via VTS for a tug reduction. Vessel on a maiden arrival to the port will not be subject to a reduction of tugs.

Please refer to the form - [16.12 Application for reduction in Tugs](#)

9.6.3 Tug Availability

Two tugs are always to be available within 2 hours in Cairns when an NGF tanker or passenger ship more than 150 meters LOA is berthed.