1.   Introduction

1.1   General

Shipping legislation in Queensland is controlled by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), a government agency of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

The state of Queensland is divided up into six regions, five of which are controlled by a Regional Harbour Master (RHM) and the sixth by a manager, all officers of Maritime Safety Queensland who report to the General Manager and under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*, are responsible for:

- improving maritime safety for shipping and small craft through regulation and education

- minimising vessel sourced waste and providing response to marine pollution

- providing essential maritime services such as port pilots and aids to navigation

- encouraging and supporting innovation in the maritime industry.

The limit of Queensland coastal waters is defined by a line three nautical miles (nm) seaward of the territorial sea baseline. The arrangements outlined in these procedures apply to the geographical areas gazetted as pilotage areas in Queensland. Pilotage areas have been gazetted around designated ports and maritime areas to ensure the safe and efficient movement of shipping. These areas encompass the approaches, main shipping channel and waters of the port.

Collectively, the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and the port authority Far North Queensland Ports Corporation (Ports North) have responsibility for managing the safe and efficient operation of the port.

MARITIME SAFETY QUEENSLAND ADVISES THAT ESTUARINE CROCODILES ARE PRESENT IN THE WATERS OF THE PORT

1.2   Purpose

This document defines the standard procedures to be followed in the pilotage area of the port – it contains information and guidelines to assist ship's masters, owners, and agents of vessels arriving at and traversing the area. It provides details of the services and the regulations and procedures to be observed.

Nothing in this publication is intended to relieve any vessel, owner, operator, charterer, master, or person directing the movement of a vessel from the consequences of any failure to comply with any applicable law or regulation or of any neglect or precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamanship, or by the special circumstances of the case.

Information contained in this publication is based on information available as at the latest date in the document control sheet at the start of this manual. Although every care has been taken to ensure that this information is correct, no warranty, expressed or implied, is given in regard to the accuracy of all printed contents. The publisher shall not be responsible for any loss or damage resulting from or caused by any inaccuracy produced herein.

The latest version of this publication is available on the Maritime Safety Queensland website.

Any significant updates to the content of these procedures will be promulgated on this site. Ports North should be consulted for the latest information on port rules and notices:

Should errors or omissions in this publication be noted, it would be appreciated if advice of these could be forwarded to:

The Regional Harbour Master (Cairns)

Maritime Safety Queensland

Physical address: ....100-106 Tingira Street, Portsmith, Queensland 4870

Postal address: .... PO Box 1787, Cairns Queensland 4870

Phone: .... +61 7 4052 7400

Cairns VTS phone: 1300 551 899

Fax .... +61 7 4052 7460

Email: .... rhmcairns@msq.qld.gov.au

1.3 Datum

All water depths refer to the lowest astronomical tide height (LAT).

All positions in this manual are in WGS84.

All directions are referenced to True North.

1.4 Definitions

1.4.1 Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is the Commonwealth authority charged with enhancing efficiency in the delivery of safety and other services to the Australian maritime industry.

1.4.2 Australia Standard - AS 3846, 2005

AS 3846 refers to the Australian requirements for the transport and handling of dangerous goods in port areas.

1.4.3 Far North Queensland Ports Corporation (Ports North)

Ports North (PN) oversees the commercial activities in the port.

1.4.4 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRPMA)

Commonwealth authority responsible for the management of the marine park

1.4.5 Length Overall (LOA)

The LOA refers to the extreme length of a vessel.

1.4.6 Lowest astronomical tide (LAT)

This is the zero value from which all tides are measured.

1.4.7 Manager (Pilotage Services)

The person responsible for the service delivery of pilotage services within the region.

1.4.8 Manager (Vessel Traffic Management)

The person responsible for the management of the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) centre.

1.4.9 Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

The state government agency responsible for the operations of pilotage, pollution protection services, VTS and the administration of all aspects of vessel registration and marine safety in the State of Queensland.

1.4.10 MASTREP – the Modernised Australia Ship Tracking and Reporting System

The Modernised Australian Ship Tracking and Reporting System (MASTREP) is a Ship Reporting System designed to contribute to safety of life at sea and is operated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) through the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) Australia in Canberra.

1.4.11 Navigation Act

Refers to the *Navigation Act 2012*.

1.4.12 Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC)

Exemption granted to certain qualified masters who have satisfied the necessary legislative requirements and are authorised to navigate ships in the port pilotage area without a pilot.

1.4.13 Queensland Shipping Information Planning System (QSHIPS)

An internet web based ship movement booking service that may be accessed by the shipping community 24 hours a day seven days a week. www.qships.tmr.qld.gov.au/webx/

The program allows port service provider organisations the ability to accept service requests made by shipping agents and streamline ship movement planning by significantly reducing the existing levels of point to point communications that are necessary to ensure a planned ship movement has been adequately resourced with supporting services.

1.4.14 Regional Harbour Master (RHM)

The person authorised to give direction under the relevant provisions of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

1.4.15 Sailing time

The actual sailing time is the time of the last line.

1.4.16 Vessel Traffic Service Operator (VTSO)

A person, suitably qualified, delegated by the Regional Harbour Master to monitor the safe movement of vessels and to give direction under the relevant provisions of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

1.4.17 Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)

VTS is any service implemented by a competent authority, designed to maximise the safe and efficient movement of water-borne traffic.

1.5 Contact information

1.5.1 The Regional Harbour Master (Cairns)

For operational maritime questions, marine incidents, pollution, pilotage, buoy moorings, navigation aids and towage requirements please contact the Harbour Master's office located at:

Physical address:	100–106 Tingira Street Portsmith, Cairns Queensland 4870
Postal address:	PO Box 1787, Cairns Queensland 4870
Phone:	+61 7 4052 7400
Fax:	+61 7 4052 7451
Email:	rhmcairns@msq.qld.gov.au

1.5.2 Skardon River Port Control

The Port control centre, (call sign 'Skardon River port control' operated by Maritime Safety Queensland) is situated at the Regional Harbour Master's office - Cairns. For ship traffic scheduling, pollution incidents and reporting defective navigation aids please direct initial enquiries to Skardon River port control. The service is provided by Maritime Safety Queensland and provides a 24 hour, seven days a week marine operations service to the port community. They are contactable on:

VHF radio:	VHF channels 16 and 09
Phone:	+61 7 4033 3670
Phone:	1300 551 899
Fax:	+61 7 4052 7460
Email:	vtscairns@msq.qld.gov.au

In the event of an emergency, the VTS centre is the key notification and communications facility that will activate the appropriate response agencies.

Ship traffic movements may be accessed on the QSHIPS website.

1.5.3   Port authority

The Port Authority is Far North Queensland Port Authority (Ports North)

Contact details: Kevin Malone, GM Commercial +61 7 4052 3814

1.6   Rules and regulations

1.6.1   General

The rules and regulations in the port contribute to the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible handling of shipping traffic. The international rules of the IMO, such as the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and its amendments (for example the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code) and state, national and local port authority regulations are in force in the port of Skardon River.

Based on the Ports North port notices, the port rules on dangerous substances contain additional, specific regulations for ships carrying dangerous cargoes in the port.

1.6.2   Applicable legislation and regulations

The procedures outlined in this document are designed to include the requirements of the:

- *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and *Regulation 2016 (TOMSR)*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995* and *Regulation 2018 (TOMPR)*
- International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code)
- Australian Standard – AS3846 – 2005
- International Ships and Ports Security Code (ISPS Code)
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003 and Regulations.*

In addition, it will also complement the procedures of:

- Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (FNQPC)
- Cassowary Coast Council
- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
- Customs - Australian Border Force
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

As they relate to ship movements within the jurisdiction of the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns).