

## BRISBANE HEAD OFFICE

**Address:** 26 Love Street, Bulimba, Q 4171  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 674, Bulimba Q 4171  
**Director:** Perry Sutton  
**Email:** operations@torrespilots.com.au  
**Telephone:** +61 7 3217 9544 (24 hours)  
**Fax:** +61 7 3217 9722

## PILOT BASE—THURSDAY ISLAND (Torres Strait & Great North East Channel)

**Address:** 65 Waiben Esp Thursday Island Q 4875  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 622, Thursday Island Q 4875  
**Email:** tioperations@torrespilots.com.au  
**Telephone:** +61 7 4069 2251 (24 hours)  
**Fax:** +61 7 4069 2252  
**VHF:** 79 and 16 'Torres Pilots'

## PILOT BASE—CAIRNS (Inner Route)

**Address:** Lot 9 / 36 Buchan Street, Portsmith, Cairns Q 4870  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 7221, Cairns Q 4870  
**Email:** cairnsoperations@torrespilots.com.au  
**Telephone/Fax:** +61 7 4035 5278  
**VHF:** 79 and 16 'Torres Pilots'

## PILOT BASE—MACKAY (Hydrographers Passage)

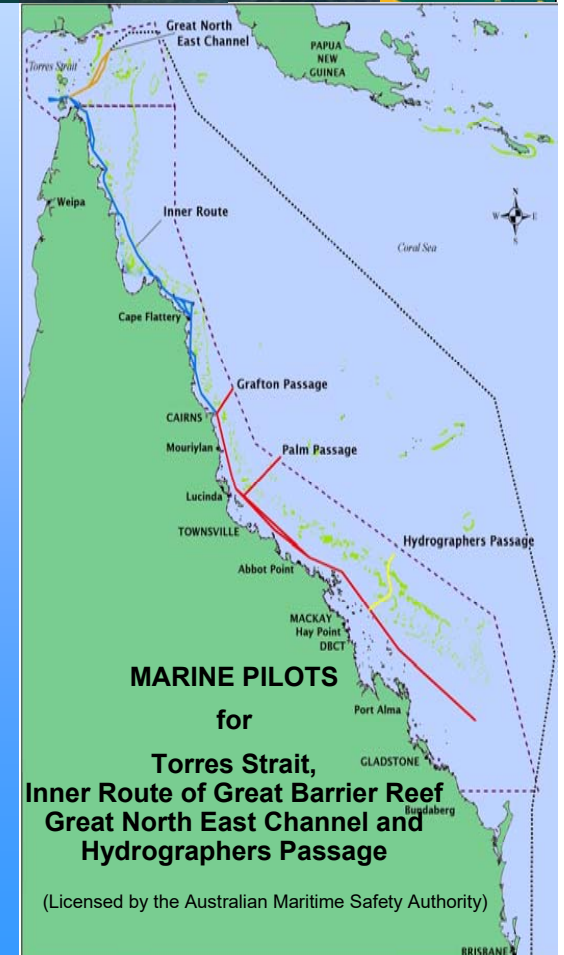
**Operators:** Flyon Pty Ltd  
**Email:** operations@flyon.com.au  
**Telephone:** +61 0 437 279 861  
**VHF:** 16 and 9 'Torres Pilots'

Further details on the enclosed and other related Great Barrier Reef shipping information may be obtained from our website:  
<http://www.torrespilots.com.au>



# TORRES PILOTS

Torres Pilots Pty Ltd ABN 71 053 843 646



**MARINE PILOTS**  
for  
**Torres Strait,  
Inner Route of Great Barrier Reef  
Great North East Channel and  
Hydrographers Passage**

(Licensed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

Date of issue 2017



**TORRES PILOTS**  
[www.torrespilots.com.au](http://www.torrespilots.com.au)

**SAFETY**

*The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) introduced on 1 January 2001 a Great Barrier Reef Pilotage Safety Management Code (PSMC). Torres Pilots Pty Ltd have been audited and is an AMSA licenced pilotage provider.*

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

*Torres Pilots Pty Ltd has attained AS/NZ ISO 9001:2008 Quality Assurance certification and has complied with the rigorous standards set by the internationally recognised Maritime certification society Det Norske Veritas (DNV).*



Thursday Island



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## COMPULSORY PILOTAGE

### INNER ROUTE

The Australian Commonwealth Government has legislated an amendment to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 which became law on 1 October 1991. This requires all vessels of 70 metres or more in overall length and all loaded oil tankers, chemical tankers and liquefied gas carriers regardless of length, to carry a Pilot, licensed under Commonwealth, State or Territory law, when taking passage through the inner route of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) between Cape York (latitude 10°41'S) and the vicinity of Cairns Roads (latitude 16°40'S) or when transiting Hydrographers Passage (latitude 19°43'S).

### TORRES STRAIT & GREAT NORTH EAST CHANNEL

The IMO has adopted the designation of Torres Strait as an extension of the GBR and defines the 'Particularly Sensitive Sea Area' to include the Great North East Channel (GNEC). On 6 October 2006 the Australian Government introduced compulsory pilotage for the Torres Strait and GNEC to Dalrymple Island (latitude 9°34'S).

Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels more than 70 metres and all loaded oil, gas or chemical tankers through the Torres Strait.

Marine Notice 10/2015 requires vessels with a draft of 8.0 metres or more to engage a pilot to/from Booby Island PBG (latitude 10°36'S).

### HYDROGRAPHERS PASSAGE

Refer to above.



## DESIGNATED PILOT BOARDING GROUNDS (PBG)

### TORRES STRAIT

West of Booby Island <sup>(1)</sup> Lat 10°36'S  
Long 141°50'E

West of Goods Island <sup>(1)</sup> Lat 10°34'S  
Long 142°04'E

### GREAT NORTH EAST CHANNEL

5nm South of Dalrymple Island <sup>(1)</sup> Lat 9°34'S  
Long 143°24.5'E

### HYDROGRAPHERS PASSAGE

Off Blossom Bank <sup>(2)</sup> Lat 19°43'S  
Long 150°26'E

### CAIRNS

Cairns Fairway Buoy <sup>(1,3)</sup> Lat 16°47'S  
Long 145°53'E

- Note: 1. Board by Launch  
2. Board by Land-on Helicopter only  
3. Board by Land-on Helicopter by arrangement





## PILOTAGE ORDERING PROCEDURES

Please give four (4) days notice to Torres Pilots Brisbane Office by:-

- Email: [operations@torrespilots.com.au](mailto:operations@torrespilots.com.au)
- Fax: +61 7 3217 9722

Please advise following details:-

- Pilot boarding ground
- Time / Date pilot required (LT = UTC + 10 hrs)
- Destination and Intended route
- Disembarkation PBG
- Maximum transit draft
- Vessel's operational speed
- Vessel's IMO and call sign
- Vessel's email, Sat C or fax numbers

### SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS

#### PILOT BOARDING TORRES STRAIT

After ordering pilot with Brisbane Operations, ETA updates at 72 / 48 / 24 / 12 / 6 hrs should be sent to Brisbane Operations and copied to Thursday Island Pilot Base TORRES PILOTS THURSDAY ISLAND

- Email: [tioperations@torrespilots.com.au](mailto:tioperations@torrespilots.com.au)

#### PILOT BOARDING CAIRNS FAIRWAY

After ordering pilot with Brisbane Operations, ETA updates at 72 / 48 / 24 / 12 / 6 hrs should be sent to Brisbane Operations and copied to Cairns Pilot Base TORRES PILOTS CAIRNS

- Email: [cairnsoperations@torrespilots.com.au](mailto:cairnsoperations@torrespilots.com.au)

#### PILOT BOARDING HYDROGRAPHERS PASSAGE (at Blossom Bank)

After ordering pilot with Brisbane Operations, ETA updates at 72 / 48 / 24 / 12 / 6 hrs should be sent to Brisbane Operations and copied to Mackay Pilot Base TORRES PILOTS MACKAY

- Email: [operations@flyon.com.au](mailto:operations@flyon.com.au)



## VHF RADIO—WORKING CHANNELS

Call Sign = TORRES PILOTS

Please call 'TORRES PILOTS'

- 2 hours before arrival at PBG if by launch

Call Sign = TORRES PILOTS

Dalrymple Island (GNEC) 79 and 16

Thursday Island (Torres Strait) 79 and 16

Cairns (Inner Route) 79 and 16

Please call 'TORRES PILOTS'

- 30 minutes before arrival at PBG if by helicopter

Hydrographers Passage 16 and 9







## REEFVTS

### MANDATORY SHIP REPORTING SYSTEM

Ships transiting through the Great Barrier Reef and the Torres Strait must report to the REEFVTS. A full summary of the reporting requirements can be found in the 'Great Barrier Reef & Torres Strait Vessel Traffic Service (REEFVTS) User Manual'

A copy of this user manual can be obtained from AMSA and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) or from the internet at

<https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/-/media/MSQInternet/MSQFiles/Home/shipping/REEFVTS/reef-user-guide-2017>

### PRE-ENTRY REPORT

Ships must provide a Pre-Entry Report at least one (1) hours prior to entering the REEFVTS area.

### REEFVTS CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: +61 1300 721 293

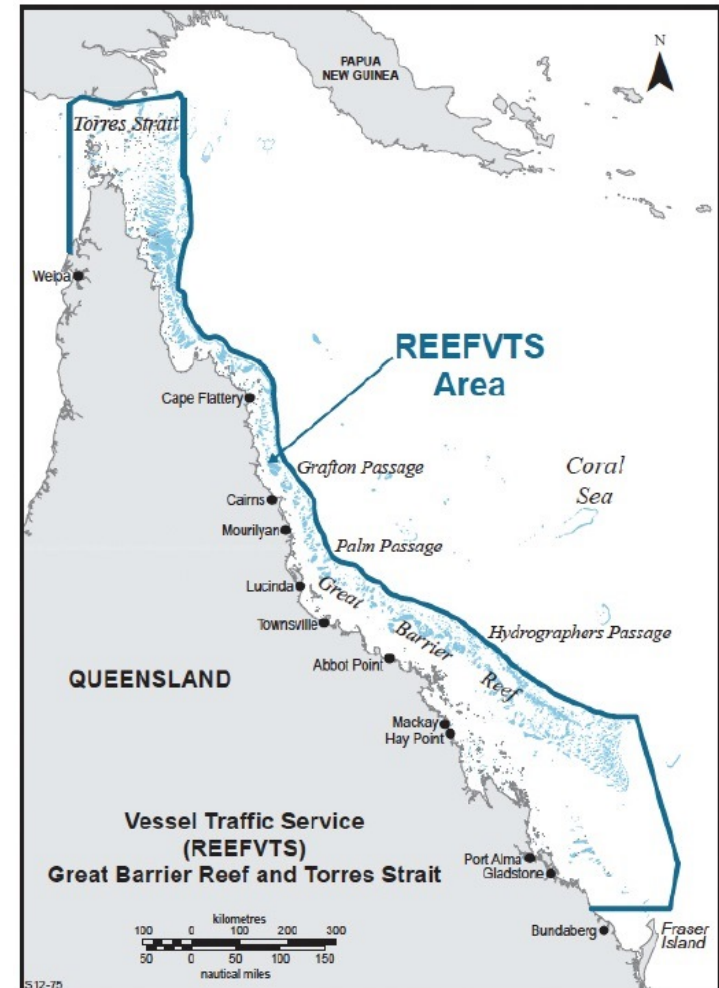
Fax: +61 7 47 210 633



Pilot launch 'Alpha'



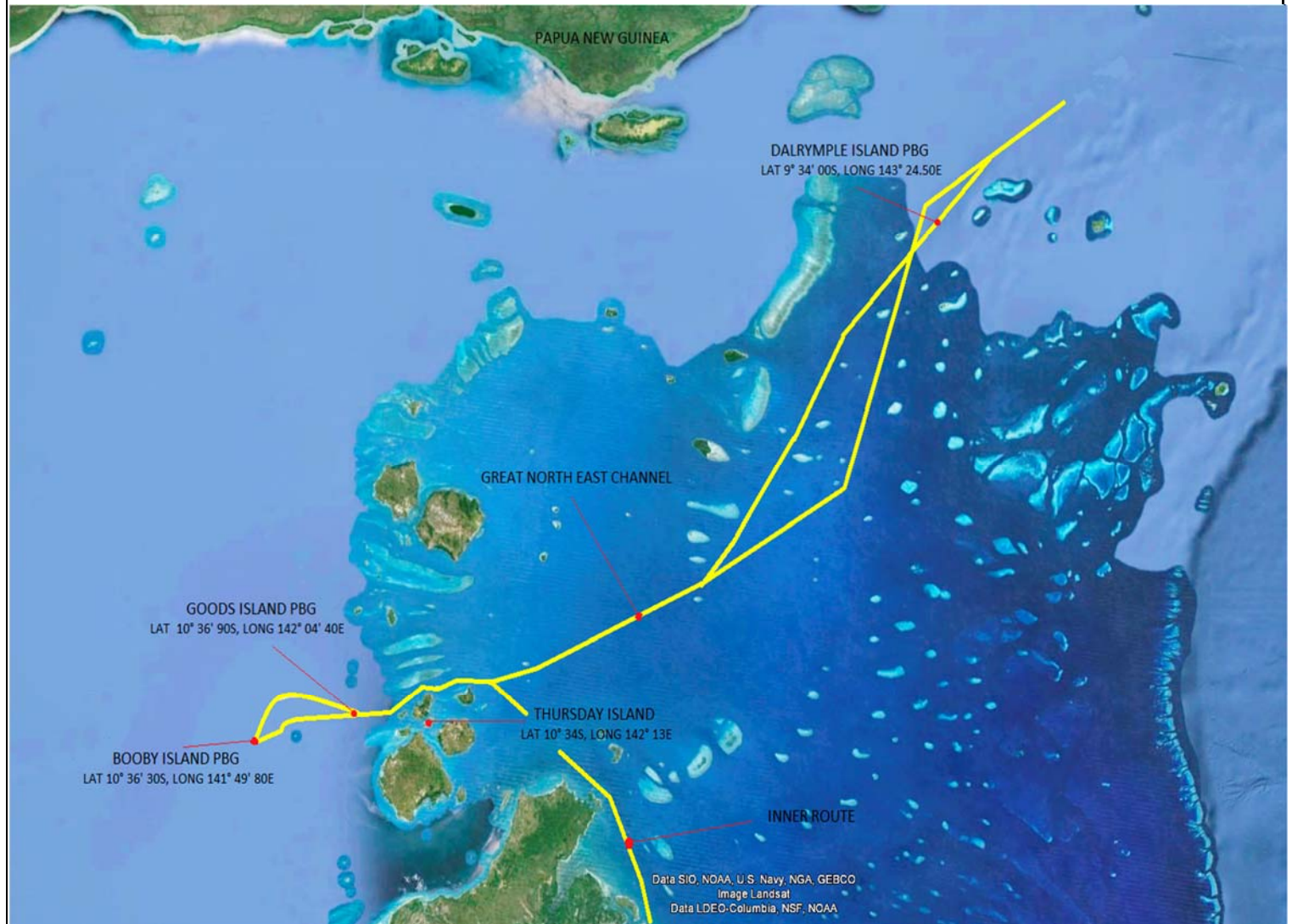
## REEFVTS—REPORTING CHARTLET



\*courtesy of ReefVTS



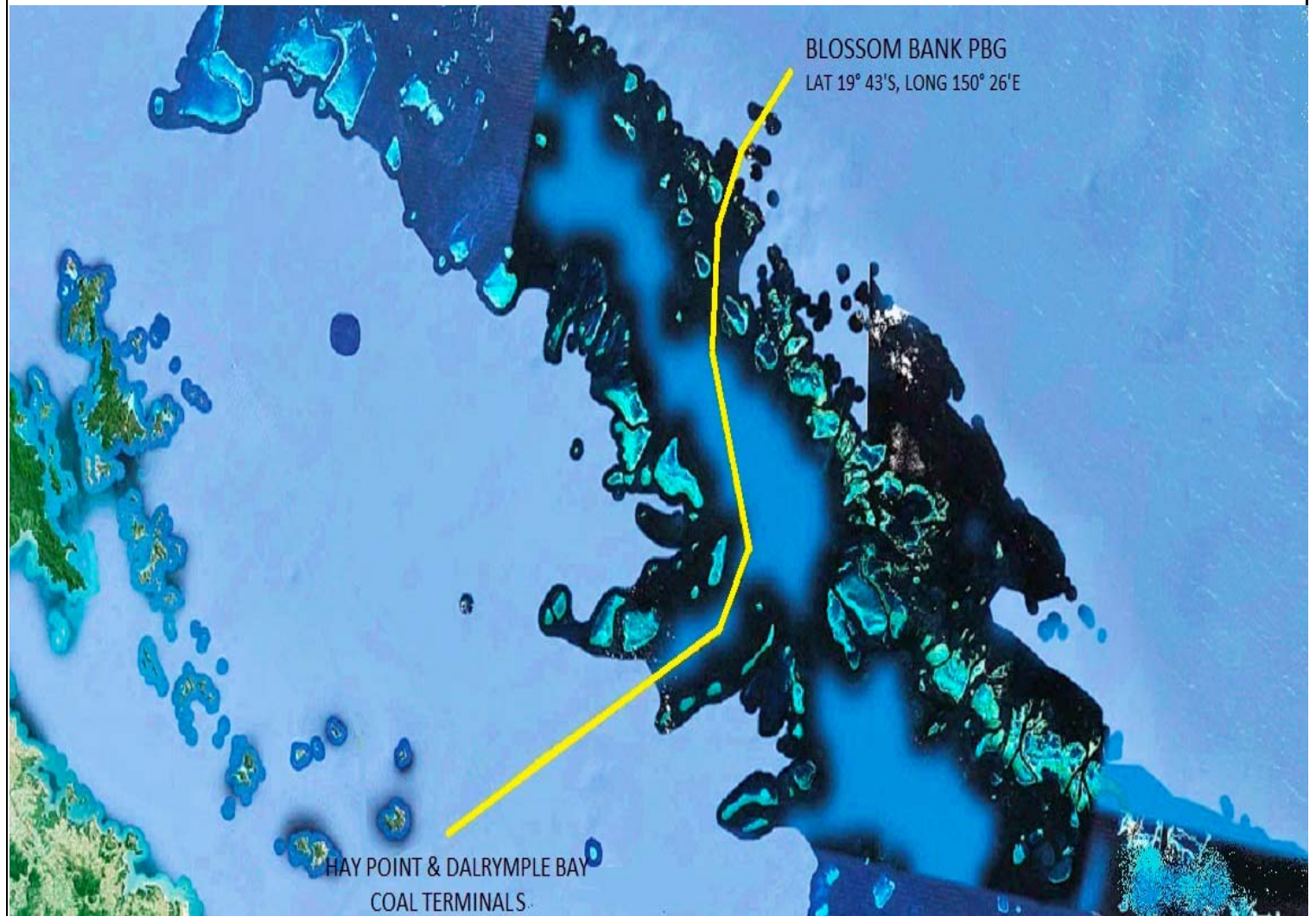
## TORRES STRAIT AND GREAT NORTH EAST CHANNEL—CHARTLET LOCATION OF PILOT BOARDING GROUNDS







## HYDROGRAPHERS PASSAGE—CHARTLET





## DRAFT RESTRICTIONS

### TORRES STRAIT

The two (2) tidally restricted, and therefore controlling, areas for transiting Torres Strait, the Inner Route and the Great North East Channel (GNEC), are Varzin Passage and The Prince of Wales (POW) Channel.

Utilisation of daily tide rises enables the Service to pilot vessels through these areas with a maximum sailing draft not exceeding 12.2 metres.

Minimum under keel clearances (UKC) required are as follows:-

Draft	Varzin Passage	POW Channel
11.9m or less	1.0m	1.0m
over 11.9m	1.0m	10% of draft

The 12.2 metre draft limitation applies from Booby Island to Cairns in the Inner Route and from Booby Island to Dalrymple Island in the GNEC. Vessels over 10.5 metres are advised of the safe 'tidal windows' after ordering the pilot.

Torres Strait tide gauges are transmitted via a 24 hour broadcast. All stations broadcast on the one frequency VHF Marine Channel 68 (156.425 MHz). The tide heights are broadcast in the sequence:

- Booby Island
- Goods Island
- Turtle Head (Hammond Island)
- Ince Point (Wednesday Island)
- Nardana Patches

Further information on draft limitations and UKC may be found in Annual Australian Notice to Mariners No.23 published by the Hydrographic Service RAN.



## DRAFT RESTRICTIONS (cont)

### HAY POINT / DALRYMPLE BAY & ABBOT POINT

The maximum draft between Central Queensland Ports and Hydrographers, Palm or Grafton Passages is limited only by the permissible draft at the loading port.

### UKCM

Torres Pilots is using AMSA-approved UKCM transit plans for Torres Strait using the AMSA UKCM system. The system was developed by the world leader, OMC International. Our transit plans will more accurately calculate tidal windows, UKCs and optimize vessel speeds whilst allowing for squat, pitch, roll and met-ocean conditions (wind, tidal flow and wave sensors) effecting deep draft vessels transiting Torres Strait. The UKCM system allows Torres Pilots and vessel operators to plan and monitor the safe and efficient passage of deep draft vessels transiting Torres Strait. The AMSA UKCM system has been mandatory from 1st January, 2014. TP Pilots will assist Masters with use of the new UKCM system.

### VOYAGE PLANNING

Standard Passage Plans (SPP), are supplied to vessels by Torres Pilots operations after the Master has indicated the intended draft and ETA but prior to pilot boarding. The pilot will conduct a briefing and confirm with the Master the SPP, complete with off course limits, hazard identification, risk management and way points consistent with AMSA's









### SUNDRY DISTANCES

#### PILOT TO PILOT

Distances from Booby Island			
Amamapare	555	Panama (Balboa) *	8491
Jakarta	2132	Paradip	4067
Gebe Island	1076	Port Moresby *	344
Gove	334	Singapore	2506
Groote Eylandt	391	Suez	7309
Hong Kong	2739	Suva *	3266
Kaohsiung	2558	Darwin	717
Kobe	3132	Daru	148
Manila	2192	Umuda *	195
Melbourne	2273	Visakhapatnam	4075
Noumea *	1713	Yokohama	3226

\* Via Great North East Channel

Distances from Booby Island to N.Z. Ports		
Auckland	via Cairns Fairway	2495
	via GNEC	2571
Lyttelton	via Cairns Fairway	2779
	via GNEC	2933
Nelson	via Cairns Fairway	2576
	via GNEC	2730
New Plymouth	via Cairns Fairway	2428
	via GNEC	2582
Tauranga	via Cairns Fairway	2573
	via GNEC	2641
Wellington	via Cairns Fairway	2604
	via GNEC	2754
Whangarei	via Cairns Fairway	2436
	via GNEC	2528



### SUNDRY DISTANCES (cont)

#### PILOT TO PILOT

Distances from Booby Island to Australian Ports via Great North East Channel & Outer Route		
Abbot Point	887	via Palm Passage
Brisbane	1445	-
Cairns Fairway	689	via Grafton Passage
Gladstone	1349	via Capricorn Passage
Hay Point	1015	via Palm Passage
Lucinda	775	via Grafton Passage
Mackay	1009	via Palm Passage
Melbourne	2290	-
Mourilyan	721	via Grafton Passage
Newcastle	1858	-
Port Kembla	1944	-
Sydney	1913	-
Townsville	930	via Palm Passage

Note: Distance from Booby Island to Hydrographers Passage (Blossom Bank PBG) via the GNEC & recommended Outer Route is 992nm.

Distances from Hay Point			
To Jomard Entrance		To Rossel Island	
via Hydrographers Passage	643	via Hydrographers Passage	675
via Palm Passage	790	via Palm Passage	905
via Grafton Passage	834	via Grafton Passage	949
via Capricorn Channel	964	via Capricorn Channel	909