

## Lord Howe Island Harbour Master Directions

The following statutory directions are issued to owners/agents/masters of Seagoing Ships; Ships carrying Dangerous Goods; Class 1, 2 or 4 Commercial Vessels; and those proposing to undertake Barge Operations entering, and conducting operations within, the defined waters of [Lord Howe Island](#).

These directions are issued under section 88 of the *Marine Safety Act 1998* (NSW). The Harbour Master is appointed under section 86 of *Marine Safety Act 1998* (NSW).

### Who do these directions apply to?

These directions apply to a range of vessels entering and operating within Lord Howe Island, including:

- Seagoing Ships (see [definitions](#));
- Ships carrying Dangerous Goods (see [definitions](#));
- Class 1, Class 2, or Class 4 Commercial Vessels (see [definitions](#));
- Barge operations.

**Note:** *The master of a vessel who, without reasonable excuse, refuses or fails to comply with any direction given to the master by a harbour master is guilty of an offence (section 91(1) Marine Safety Act 1998).*

### Who to contact?

#### Seagoing Ships and Ships carrying Dangerous Goods

1. If the vessel is:

- Carrying Dangerous Goods (see [definitions](#)); or
- A Seagoing Ship between 45.72 and 80 metres in length (and 500 Gross Tonnage or less) and not a Cruise Ship.

Contact NSW Maritime - Marine Pollution and Emergency Response Duty Officer by phone on +61 (0)2 9962 9074 or email at [shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au).

Further information is available on the [website](#).

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2. If the vessel is:

- a Seagoing Ship over 80 metres in length, or
- over 500 Gross Tonnage, or
- a Cruise Ship (see [definitions](#)).

Contact the Port Authority of NSW by phone on +61 (0) 2 9296 4999 or visit the website at [www.portauthoritynsw.com.au](http://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au).

### Barge operations

Contact NSW Maritime Marine Pollution and Emergency Response Duty Officer by phone on +61 (0)2 9962 9074 or email at [shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au).

NSW Maritime will assign a contact for any approved barge operations on Lord Howe Island. All staff involved with the operation must be made aware of this contact and ensure that relevant notifications are issued as requested.

### Commercial vessels

Class 1, 2 or 4 commercial vessels (other than Seagoing Ships, Cruise Ships, Ships carrying Dangerous Goods or barge operations) do not need to contact NSW Maritime when undertaking operations within the Lord Howe Island port area, but must still comply with this direction.

If in doubt, contact NSW Maritime for more information.

**Note:** Vessels that do not fall into the above categories are not required to comply with these Directions. Owners or masters of ships (both seagoing and non-seagoing) may contact NSW Maritime for any confirmation, information, or assistance.

## Directions

### Seagoing Ships and Ships carrying Dangerous Goods

The [Minor Ports Harbour Master Direction](#) covering all NSW Minor Ports, including Lord Howe Island – applies in full.

This Direction operates as a supplement to the Minor Ports Harbour Master Direction and provides additional requirements applicable to Lord Howe Island.

### Requirements for navigation in the minor port of Lord Howe Island

#### Navigation requirements for certain vessels

In accordance with Part 3, Division 3 of the Marine Safety Regulation 2016, special safety requirements for certain commercial vessels in the waters of Lord Howe Island lagoon apply.

1. The owner and master of a Class 1, Class 2 or Class 4 commercial vessel are prohibited from permitting a vessel to leave Lord Howe Island Lagoon –

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- (a) between sunset and sunrise; or
  - (b) when the wind speed exceeds 25 knots; or
  - (c) when the wind is in the segment 150 degrees to 320 degrees and the wind speed exceeds 21 knots.
2. The owner and master of a Class 1 or Class 2 commercial vessel are prohibited from allowing the vessel to operate in waters within Lord Howe Island Lagoon between sunset and sunrise and for any period during which:
- (a) the wind speed exceeds 15 knots; or
  - (b) tidal conditions do not exceed 300 millimetres from the low water mark.

### Lord Howe Island Board

All private and commercial vessels are required to apply to the Lord Howe Island Board for entry to Lord Howe Island. Additional requirements may be imposed by the Board for visits to Lord Howe Island. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

### Marine Parks

Lord Howe Island is both an NSW Marine Park and an Australian Marine Park. Depending on the activity, additional approvals or permits may be required. Visit the following websites for additional information:

- [NSW Marine Parks](#)
- [Australian Marine Parks](#).

### Intentional grounding of commercial vessels

This direction relates to the deliberate grounding of commercial vessels in the Lord Howe Island lagoon to enable unloading of perishable goods to maintain supply on the island and prevent spoilage.

This activity is only to be carried out in exceptional circumstances and is not to be considered a routine occurrence and may only occur after the vessel has been delayed from entering the lagoon.

**Note:** Requirements of the Minor Ports Harbour Master Direction are also required to be met and should be considered alongside the below requirements.

1. Prior approval from NSW Maritime to ground a vessel in the Minor Port waters of Lord Howe Island is required. Applications for approval to ground must be:
  - (a) submitted to the [shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au) email. In the event that a response is not received within 24 hours, call the Duty Officer phone on (02) 9962 9074;
  - (b) accompanied by the following:
    - i. The period of grounding requested and reason for activity;

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- ii. Evidence of approvals to undertake the activity from the Lord Howe Island Board and Marine Parks;
- iii. A list of goods intended to transfer while grounded;
- iv. Details of any other vessels involved in the transfer of cargo.

**Note:** Additional information may be requested by the Harbour Master or their representative.

2. NSW Maritime is to be informed immediately:
  - (a) if approval is withdrawn by either the Lord Howe Island Board or Marine Parks;
  - (b) when the vessels takes ground and when it re-floats;
  - (c) if there is any addition to the list of goods which need to be transferred;
  - (d) if there is an incident related to the activity that:
    - i. Results in the hospitalisation of anyone; or
    - ii. Results in oils or chemical entering the lagoon; or
    - iii. Has the potential to attract media attention.
3. Only non-dangerous goods are to be transferred during grounding operations. These usually consist of perishables.

## Barge operations

1. Prior to any barge operations, NSW Maritime is to be contacted via the [shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shipping@transport.nsw.gov.au) email and provided with the following documents relating to proposed operations on Lord Howe Island:
  - Safe Work Method Statement;
  - Full Risk Assessment for the maritime components of the operation (harbour entry, berthing, land-sea transfer, un-berthing, harbour departure);
  - Passage Plan;
  - Mooring plan and berthing arrangements for barge;
  - Copies of all vessel and barge certificates of survey and operation;
  - Contact details of all key personnel involved in the maritime components of the operation;
  - Marine Pollution Management Plan (SOPEP).

**Note:** Additional information may be requested by the Harbour Master or their representative.

2. Open communications must be established and maintained with the Harbour Master throughout the operation.
3. Permission for all vessels to enter Lord Howe Island, anchor, berth, change berth or depart must be obtained from the Harbour Master.

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4. A full operations brief is to be carried out immediately prior to the operation commencing. All personnel and agencies involved in activities should attend.
5. A qualified Master Mariner must take charge of all waterborne operations. This person is to be the on-water contact with the Harbour Master once waterborne operations are underway.
6. Appropriate marine pollution containment/clean-up equipment is to be on hand for immediate use.

### Advice based on past barge operations

- Past operations have shown that planners have tended to underestimate the difficulties encountered, especially with regard to mooring, berthing and weather conditions encountered on Lord Howe Island.
- Lashing down – as much preparation as possible should be completed prior to the load out. The time taken to complete lashing has been underestimated in the past.
- A media release should be issued to local radio and print media to ensure those living or visiting the island are aware of operations to be undertaken.

**Note:** *The master of a vessel who, without reasonable excuse, refuses or fails to comply with any direction given to the master by a harbour master is guilty of an offence (section 91(1) Marine Safety Act 1998).*

## Definitions

### Cruise Ship

A Cruise Ship is a Seagoing Ship used to carry passengers for hire or reward that operates on voyages between ports.

### Dangerous Goods

Dangerous Goods are goods listed in the IMDG Code and includes a restricted chemical.

### Domestic Commercial Vessel Classes

- Class 1: Passenger vessel (13 or more passengers)
- Class 2: Non-passenger vessel (up to 12 passengers)
- Class 4: Hire and drive vessel used by the hirer only for recreational purposes.

### Minor Port

NSW Minor Ports are a regional port as listed in the Harbour Master appointments and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port Authority of NSW (see Lord Howe Island Minor Port boundary [definition](#) below).

These ports are generally areas located outside defined major ports that may be used by vessels for a range of purposes from overnight anchorages to places where offloading dangerous goods and passenger movements occurs.

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### **Seagoing Ship**

A Seagoing Ship is a vessel a vessel of more than 45.72 metres that is used or intended to be used to carry cargo or passengers for hire or reward and that normally operates on voyages between ports.

### **Ship**

For the purposes of carrying Dangerous Goods, a ship means a seagoing or non-seagoing vessel that is used for the transport of cargoes and includes a vessel used on inland waters.

## **Lord Howe Island Minor Port Boundary Description**

### **Port of Lord Howe Island**

The Port of Lord Howe Island comprises the navigable waters of The Lagoon and of the Tasman Sea extending three nautical miles from the mean high-water mark of Lord Howe Island.

See next page for map of minor port area.

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