

LOCAL NAVIGATION WARNING

GIPPSLAND PORTS



The following navigation warning is published for general information.

AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA

LNW No. 6 (T) OF 2026

SYDENHAM INLET

TEMPORARY ARTIFICIAL WATERWAY OPENING

DATE: Monday 30th March 2026

PREVIOUS NOTICE: No previous notice for this event.

DETAILS: Recent rainfall has resulted in increased water levels with possible flooding of community and infrastructure assets at the township of Bemm River.

Sydenham Inlet is currently closed to the sea. The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) have been monitoring water levels within the inlet system. The level has been reached where an artificial opening will be attempted on Tuesday 31st March 2026.

Parks Victoria, in conjunction with EGCMA, will manually excavate to create the opening. These artificial opening events are normally temporary until the floodwaters recede.

A vessel Exclusion Zone will be in force from tomorrow, Tuesday 31st March for approximately three days to facilitate the safe opening of Sydenham Inlet.

A series of red "No Boating" Buoys will be established across the line of the narrow opening to the inlet, approximately 2.5 kilometers upstream of the ocean opening. The position of the Exclusion Zone boundary is a line;

From; Lat. 37° 46.371' South Lon. 149° 00.040' East
To; Lat. 37° 46.374' South Lon. 149° 00.153' East Datum WGS84
See attached area map.

Mariners are advised to stay well clear of temporarily open entrances to avoid being carried away through the entrance by strong ebb flows.

Mariners are also advised against an attempt to navigate out into the ocean over natural sand bars that form outside temporary entrances.

Bar crossings are regarded as extremely dangerous and can cause serious personal injury or death when unfavorable environmental conditions exist.

Mariners are invited to contact the Harbour Master on 0427 610 025 should they wish to discuss port entry for any Ports under the Management of Gippsland Ports. (see website for details);
www.gippslandports.vic.gov.au

FURTHER NOTICE: No further Notice shall be issued.

DAVID ASHWORTH
ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTER
GIPPSLAND PORTS