

Local Marine Notice 015-2026

Port Botany

Autonomous Underwater Vessel (AUV) Testing Operations

Mariners are advised that intermittent Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) testing will be conducted at Port Botany during daylight hours until 31 December 2026. Majority of the offshore testing is expected to take place off Bate Bay. The testing will include AUV launching and recovery, towing, surface and subsurface operations.

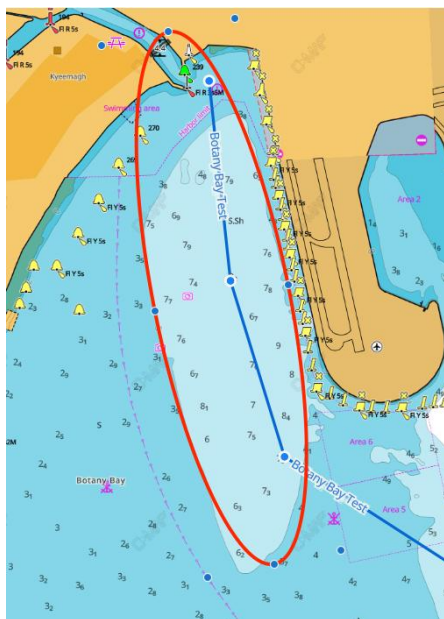
The following vessels will be involved to support these activities.

- Sydney Swan
- Protector – a 12m RHIB
- 2 x smaller standby vessels

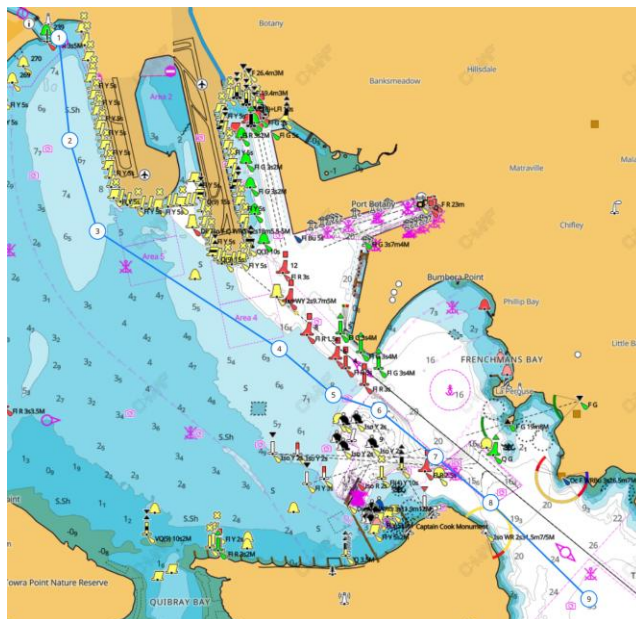
Protector will be the main point of contact and will be contactable on VHF Channel 12. This vessel is equipped with AIS.

Starting Tuesday 18 August 2026, water testing will commence in the area around Cooks River. The extent of this initial testing will be strictly restricted to the area shown in the attached Area 1 map.

There is a possibility of extending operations to include towing out of the heads, as shown in the Area 2 map. If this proceeds, there will be no conflict with commercial vessel operations.

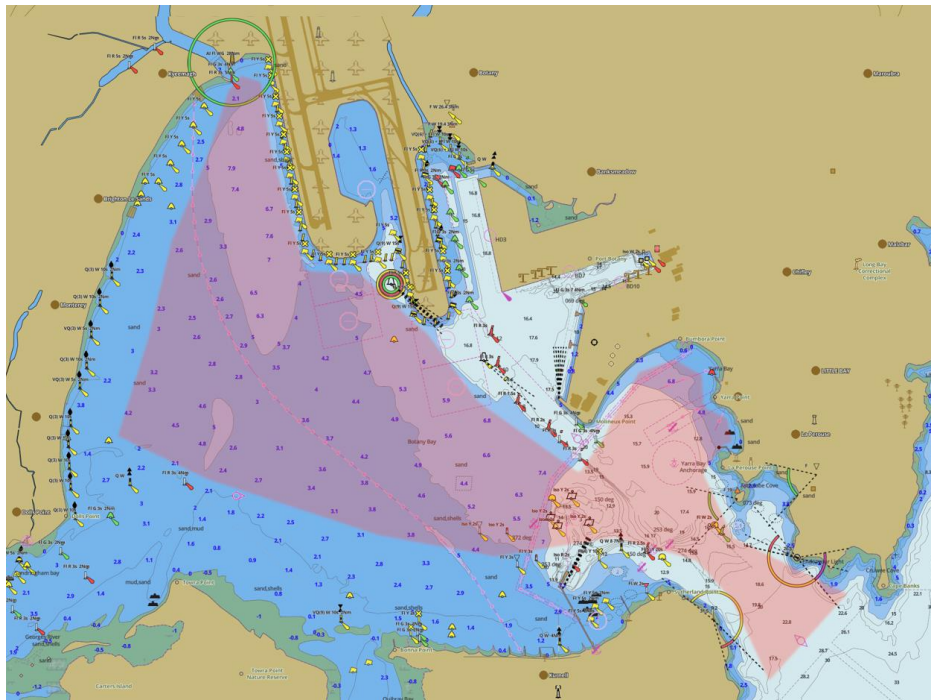


Area 1 Map.



Area 2 Map.

The activity is not expected to affect normal navigation; however, mariners are advised to navigate with caution, maintain a proper lookout, and keep clear of vessels engaged in the AUV testing operation where practicable.



The testing areas are indicated in magenta on the map above.

For a list of Local Marine Notices currently in force, please see:

[Local Marine Notices | Port Authority New South Wales \(portauthoritynsw.com.au\)](http://portauthoritynsw.com.au)