

Newcastle Harbour Pilotage Service



The Newcastle Harbour (PortCorp) Pilotage Service is responsible for the safe navigation and steering of vessels in and around Newcastle Harbour.

The Port of Newcastle has 12 marine pilots who are regularly whisked out to ships. A helicopter is used in about 85 per cent of transfers, except when the vessel does not have a large enough area for a helicopter to land, or when the weather prevents flying.

A pilot cutter is used for the other transfers, Newcastle has two sea going cutters, being the *Governor Macquarie* (pictured above) and the *E.C. Close*. When the cutters are used, the pilots are required to climb the ships ladder to board.

The service has flown more than 22,000 transfers since it started using helicopters in 1999.

All of the Newcastle pilots are constantly training, each year the pilots travel to the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, which has a complete model of the Port of Newcastle. There they undertake simulations as part of their training requirements, which are constantly evolving.



Inside the harbour, a smaller cutter is used to transfer the pilots from the Pilot Station (near Horseshoe Beach) to the helipad at Dyke Point, or to any ships that are berthed in the harbour. This smaller cutter (pictured below) is called the Brian Cecil and was named in recognition of Mr. Cecil who was the Signal Master at Nobby's Lighthouse and Signal Station for 26 years before his death in 1997.



For those marine hobbyist that use a radio scanner to enhance their enjoyment, you can mainly tune into the Newcastle Pilotage Service on the following frequencies

156.300 - channel 6 VHF Marine

156.450 - channel 9 VHF Marine

415.375 - PortCorp inner harbour operations ctcss114.8

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