

## Moments in time – Newcastle, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007

In the morning hours of June 8, Novocastrians awoke to heavy rain and strong winds howling around their homes. Along the Newcastle coast, the storm was whipping up a frenzy. What was unfolding, was to be a day of drama for ships anchored off the coast awaiting entry into the port.

Early in the morning, Newcastle Port Corporation radioed the 56 moored ships waiting off the coast to load coal to warn them to move out to sea to escape the approaching storm. The *Pasha Bulker*, along with The *Sea of Confidence*, *Betris* and The *Comtex Pioneer* and seven other ships, did not heed the warning.

As the storm hit, the *Pasha Bulker* could not clear the coast and it became beached at 9:15am.

A full rescue operation was underway to save the crew of the *Pasha Bulker*.

As the crowds gathered to watch the “Pasha Rescue” many did not notice the other ships in danger of suffering the same fate

Below is a brief timeline of SitReps (situation reports) as reported to the Emergency Operations Centre

### Mid-day

<i>Pasha Bulker</i>	21 on board, beached at 9.15am, rescue op underway
<i>Comtex Pioneer</i>	21 on board
<i>Betis</i>	20 on board
<i>Sea of Confidence</i>	25 on board

Tugs dispatched – initially called off, 11m seas prior to mid-day SitRep

Tug *Kornive* negotiating swell

Tug *Wickham* trying to head to *Betis*

Tug *Woonna* on standby in Sydney

### **2.30pm**

*Sea of Confidence* – Stockton awaiting tug, 9 mile

*Betis* – Moon Island Swansea, refused assistance from tug 3.3 mile

*Comtex Pioneer* – Merewether, 4.2 mile and holding

*Pasha Bulker* – Nobby's, 700 tonnes of oil, going nowhere under own power

### **3pm**

Tug *Watagan* - alongside *Sea of Confidence*

*Betis* – 3.3 miles, stationary

*Comtex Pioneer* – 7.6 miles, steaming south east at 3-4 knots

### **4.30pm**

Tug *Watagan* – had to abandon efforts to assist *Sea of Confidence*

*Sea of Confidence* – crossed anchors 1.2 miles

*Pasha Bulker* – grounded, 700 tonnes of oil

### **5.30pm**

*Sea of Confidence* – 1.7 miles and moving slow towards sea

Tug *Waratah* – alongside *Sea of Confidence*

[www.lakescan.com.au](http://www.lakescan.com.au)