



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**



11 December 2023

SECURING NORFOLK ISLAND'S FREIGHT SUPPORT

The Australian Government is funding the design and manufacture of two new purpose-built Cargo Transfer Vessels (CTVs) to better support Norfolk Island's sea freight needs, in partnership with the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC).

Following a competitive and transparent tender process and thorough assessment of responses, NIRC has approved Southern Ocean Solutions Pty Ltd, an experienced Australian company to build and deliver the custom-designed vessels.

The tender evaluation panel sought advice from an independent marine architect and also the team at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) before making their recommendation.

The vessels will be specifically constructed for the rigors of Norfolk Island lighterage, while improving safety and reliability, including for crew during the loading and unloading of cargo.

Southern Ocean Solutions will meet with all the on-island lighterage and stevedoring teams to finalise the design of the vessels which will be able to carry not only breakbulk goods but also 20-foot shipping containers once the appropriate biosecurity approvals are in place.

The funding of the CTVs follows extensive consultation and community support for a shift towards containerisation, in line with contemporary maritime standards, allowing shipping containers to be moved safely from both ship to shore and back-loading from shore to ship.

Thanks to the community and in particular the lighterage and passenger transfer vessel crews for contributing their knowledge and expertise to inform the procurement of vessels suited to the conditions of Norfolk Island.

Council anticipates the delivery of the CTVs in 2024. The Government and NIRC will keep the community updated as construction and delivery of the vessels progresses.