

**Australian Hydrographic Office - Wollongong
Media Release**

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**COMPLETION OF ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS FOR THE
GREAT BARRIER REEF SHIPPING ROUTE**

The Navy's Australian Hydrographic Service recently completed a challenging project to produce Electronic Navigational Charts covering the entire Inner Great Barrier Reef Shipping Route. This route is more than 1000 nautical miles in length, stretches from Torres Strait to Fraser Island, and includes some of most navigationally challenging and environmentally sensitive waters in Australia. More than 84 ENC cells were produced during this three-year project. The priority allocated to the Great Barrier Reef Area stems from a request from the Australian Department of Transport and the recommendations of the 2001 Great Barrier Reef Shipping Study.

These Electronic Navigational Charts will enable ships fitted with Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems to realise the full functionality and benefits of the technology within the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Areas. These benefits, including: reduced operator workload, enhanced situational awareness, customised information displays, and provision of system generated warnings of approaching navigational dangers will improve navigational safety and consequently reduce the risk of damage to this sensitive marine environment.

Australia's Electronic Navigational Charts will be available locally through the existing Australian chart agent network and globally through a newly established international distribution network.

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