
Port Hedland Weather Parameters for Vessel Movements – Effective 1 June 2026

Number: 03/26

Date: 04/05/2026

Date of effect:	1/06/2026
Details:	Port Hedland Weather Parameters for Vessel Movements – Effective 1 June 2026
Former notice:	NA
Charts and publications:	NA
Further notice:	NA
Attachments:	Port of Port Hedland - Weather Parameters for Vessel Movements

1. PURPOSE

This Local Marine Notice advises all port users of the implementation of Port Hedland Weather Parameters for Vessel Movements, effective 1 June 2026.

2. BACKGROUND

Vessel movements within the Port of Port Hedland have historically been guided by a fixed wind limitation of 25 knots (3 × 10-minute mean average).

Operational experience has demonstrated that a single wind threshold does not adequately reflect actual operating conditions within the port, particularly when considering:

- Combined effects of wind and sea state
- Towing capability and configuration
- Observed vessel controllability under weather impact

3. WEATHER PARAMETERS FRAMEWORK

From 1 June 2026, the fixed wind limitation is replaced with a Port Weather Parameters framework based on:

- Combined wind speed and sea state (Hs).
- Defined operational conditions (Green / Amber / Red / Stop).
- Consideration of towing capability and configuration.
- Harbour Master oversight and decision-making.

4. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

- *Green*: Normal operating conditions.
- *Amber*: Elevated conditions requiring additional controls.
- *Red*: Conditions at or approaching operational limits – Movements will generally not proceed and may only be considered under exceptional circumstances, subject to Harbour Master approval.
- *Stop*: Conditions exceed operational limits – movements generally suspended.

Port Hedland Harbour Master Team | Phone: (08) 9173 9030 | Email: hm@pilbaraports.com.au

Mariners and other port users are requested to notify the Harbour Master on the discovery of new dangers or suspected dangers to navigation within the port. [All current local Marine Notices are available on our website.](#)

4.1 Indicative Environmental Criteria

The operational conditions are generally aligned with the following indicative criteria:

Green Conditions

- Wind generally up to 25–30 knots.
- Sea state generally below 1.5 m Hs.

Amber Conditions

- Wind generally between 25–35 knots and/or;
- Sea state generally 1.5m to 1.8m Hs (or higher based on towage capability).
- Movements subject to towage capability and additional controls.

Red Conditions

- Wind generally ≥ 35 knots and/or elevated sea state beyond normal operating envelope.
- Movements will generally not proceed unless otherwise directed by the Harbour Master under exceptional circumstances.

Stop Conditions

- Sea state generally ≥ 1.8 m to 2.0m Hs, depending on towage capability.
- Movements suspended unless otherwise directed by the Harbour Master under exceptional circumstances.

These criteria are indicative and are to be applied considering the combined effect of wind, sea state and towage capability.

Historically, vessel movements have been conducted without defined sea state parameters. The introduction of these parameters provides an additional control measure and represents an increase in safety margin for vessel movements within the port.

5. SYNCHRONISED WEATHER DASHBOARD

A synchronised weather dashboard has been implemented to support this framework. The dashboard is available to all port stakeholders, including VTS, Marine, Terminals, Towage providers and service providers.

The dashboard provides:

- A single, consistent source of environmental data.
- Synchronised readings across all port users.
- Uniform interpretation of current and forecast conditions.

All port users are to utilise the dashboard as the primary reference for wind and sea state conditions.

6. OPERATIONAL APPLICATION

The weather parameters:

- Define operational guidance, not automatic permission to proceed.
- Are dependent on towage capability and configuration.

All vessel movements remain subject to:

- Pilot assessment.
- Towage capability.
- Prevailing and forecast conditions.

The parameters are not to be interpreted independently and must be applied considering the combined effect of environmental conditions.

Detailed parameters will be available in the [“Port of Port Hedland – Weather Parameters for Vessel Movements”](#).

7. AUTHORITY

The Harbour Master retains full discretion to:

- Approve, delay or suspend vessel movements.
- Apply additional controls where required.
- Consider all operational and environmental factors.

All port users are required to ensure alignment with this framework prior to the effective date.

For further information or clarification regarding this notice, please contact the HM Team.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to maintaining the safety and efficiency of Pilbara Ports.



**Behrouz Daei Zadeh
Harbour Master East (Port Hedland)**