GUIDE LINES FOR MARINERS IN THE VICINITY OF CULLEN BAY

These guidelines have been formulated by the Darwin Port Corporation to assist Mariners transiting Cullen Bay. Attached is a chart showing the route to and from Cullen Bay however this chart must not be used for navigational purposes.

Tides
Mariners entering the Port of Darwin should note that there is a large tidal range and the strong tidal currents that are prevalent in this area. The latest tidal information can be obtained from the Cullen Bay Lockmaster, VHF channel 11, or from Darwin Harbour VHF Channel 10.

Operating in Darwin Harbour
All vessels operating in Darwin Harbour should maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 10, as this is the Port’s working frequency. The latest information on shipping can be obtained from the Port.
Approaching Cullen Bay

Vessels approaching Cullen bay should approach Cullen Bay Outer Leads in line (077° true) or with the leads open slightly to the south, as shown in the photo above. The rear lead should never be open to the north, as the vessel will run close to the Fannie Bay sand bar. The Fannie Bay Beacon is a black pile and at night it has a blue light with the characteristics of flashing Blue (2) 5 seconds. This beacon must be passed at a minimum distance of 100 metres.

A red pellet buoy is just south of this beacon, This must also be left to the North as well. The least depth on the initial approach is 4 metres at chart datum. It must be noted that the next leg has a least depth of 3m at chart datum.

A vessel should proceed on this course until the Northern Breakwater obstructs the Cullen Bay Lock and the white triangle on the southern rock wall is to the left of the Starboard beacon. A vessel should then alter course to 131° true to pass between the middle of the Port and Starboard Beacons. A vessel should proceed on this course until the Port Hand Beacon is abeam. The vessel should then alter course to make for the Lock or the Pontoon.

Cullen Bay Lock open

Cullen Bay Lock nearly closed

Triangle inside beacon

Port Beacon

Starb. Beacon

Port Hand Beacon
Cullen Bay Marina also showing the entrance to the lock

Due to the unpredictability of the sand and mud in this area, it should be noted that Darwin Port Corporation cannot be held liable for any damage or injury caused through vessels accessing the area.