



CASE STUDY

IRIRIKI WRECK REMOVAL

OVERVIEW

Client type: Government of Vanuatu – Ports & Harbour
Contract: 01/21/PHD/RFT/PV/SH/SW/NPP

Project: Iririki Wreck Removal: Five vessel salvage and disposal in a quarantined tourist harbour

Location: Iririki Island shoreline, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu

Timeline: December 2021 – 31 May 2022

CHALLENGE

Following multiple cyclones, five wrecked vessels (AED265N, Pilot Boat, Outlaw, Kaona, Lycianda) were abandoned off Iririki Island:

- Created navigational hazards in a central mooring / small craft area.
- Were a public eyesore in front of Iririki Island Resort and the town waterfront.
- Posed pollution and debris risks in a key tourist and marine environment.
- Sat inside an active COVID quarantine zone, triggering strict access and health controls.

Ports & Harbour needed all five wrecks safely removed and disposed of, with:

- No major pollution events.
- Compliance with Health, Police, NDMO, Environment, Fisheries, Ports & Harbour.
- Minimal disruption to harbour operations and resort activity.

SOLUTION

Ocean Logistics delivered a staged salvage and disposal program.

Phase 1 – AED265N (Dec 2021)

- 13 Dec 2021: Mobilised Tug Warringa, 2,000 t barge Carcinus and 30 t excavator.
- Broke up wooden vessel AED265N with the excavator, lifted sections onto Carcinus.
- 14 Dec 2021: Transferred wreck ashore, loaded into 20 m³ tip truck (DVT Enterprise), disposed and buried on approved land.
- AED265N removal completed.
- Demobilised after Police / Health restricted shore access inside quarantine zone pending formal exemptions.

Phase 2 – Pilot Boat, Outlaw, Kaona (Jan–Mar 2022)

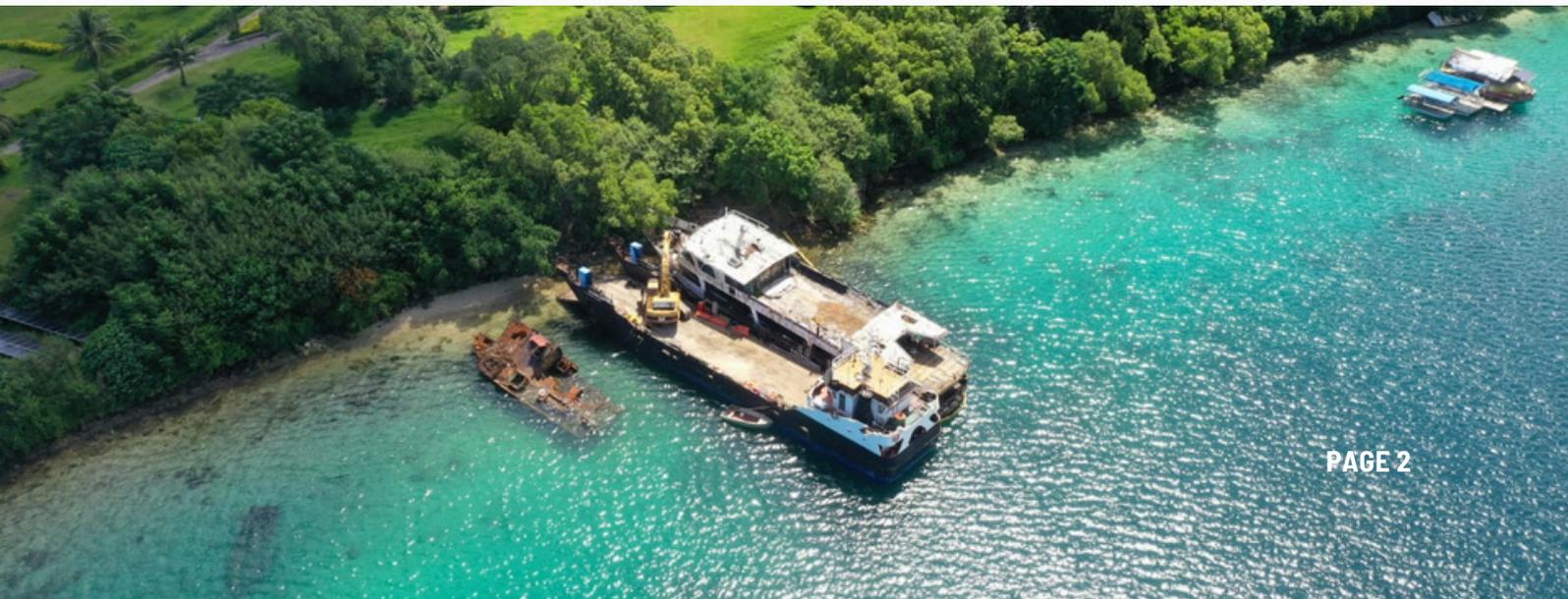
- 12 Jan 2022: Remobilised LCT Ocean Chief + 30 t excavator.
- Established fenced “Security Area” on Iririki to segregate worksite from quarantine zone; inspected by 1st PA of MIPU and Commissioner of Maritime Affairs.
- Pilot Boat: Dragged up ramp and onto Ocean Chief in one piece; moved to OLL barge berth; Recycle Corps cut up and removed all steel for recycling.
- Outlaw: Superstructure and hull cut in sections onboard Ocean Chief; site visited by Directors of Environment, Fisheries, Ports & Harbour and officers; non-metal waste trucked to ETAS dump, all loads receipted by Municipality; steel removed by Recycle Corps.
- Kaona: Demolished using 30 t excavator on Ocean Chief; all timber and metal brought ashore; DVT trucks removed most wreckage; some timber recycled as dunnage.
- By 23 Mar 2022: Three of five wrecks (AED265N, Pilot Boat, Kaona) fully removed; Outlaw almost complete.
- Temporary pause during Port Vila COVID lockdown while OLL prioritised essential tug and cargo services.

Phase 3 – Outlaw completion & Lycianda refloat / disposal (Mar–May 2022)

- 28 Mar 2022: Ocean Chief remobilised; cutting and removal of Outlaw completed, triggering a contract progress payment.
- 11–20 Apr 2022: Prepared and refloat Lycianda in place at Iririki; OLL crew held 24-hour pump attendance to keep her afloat while assessing stability for tow-out and deep-water disposal at an approved site.

Close-out & final inspections (31 May – 2 Jun 2022)

- 31 May 2022: Official contract end date; all five wreck removals complete.
- 1 Jun 2022: Joint site inspection with Director of Ports & Harbour and Assistant Harbour Master – majority of works agreed completed satisfactorily.
- Remaining minor debris identified in shallow water; OLL organised a 10-person clean-up crew at low tide to remove remaining rubbish by hand.
- 2 Jun 2022: Follow-up final inspection by Ports & Harbour staff to confirm completion.



RESULTS

- All five contracted wrecks fully removed from the Iririki shoreline under a single government contract.
- Operations executed inside a COVID quarantine island with multi-agency oversight and staged permissions.
- Use of Warringa, Ocean Chief, Carcinus, 30 t excavator, and specialist partners Recycle Corps and DVT Enterprise for compliant demolition, transport, recycling and disposal.
- No recorded pollution incidents and no recordable injuries during the project.
- Harbour area restored to safe navigation and visual standards, removing long-standing hazards and eyesores right in front of a major resort.
- Project completion and removal of the last two visible wrecks reported in national media, adding third-party credibility.

DON'T LET ACCESS RESTRICTIONS STALL YOUR PROJECT. WE DELIVERED A STAGED SALVAGE PROGRAM INSIDE A QUARANTINE ZONE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU. PARTNER WITH A TEAM THAT FINDS A WAY THROUGH.

+678 22454

team@ocean.vu

1st Floor International Building, 5 Wharf Rd, Port Vila, Vanuatu

