

CHRIS KENNEDY, PROJECT MANAGER:

So we're about to perform the HIPP Cape Leeuwin survey, which is a survey off the coast of Margaret River and Augusta.

So my name's Chris Kennedy, I'm the program manager for HIPP, which is the HydroScheme Industry Partnership Program.

It's a partnership between the Australian Hydrographic Office and private industry.

So they're basically getting private companies like MMA Offshore to perform seabed mapping and charting duties around the coast of Australia.

So we'll be performing a survey where we're mapping the seabed.

The area is 421 square nautical miles and we're doing that by using Multibeam Echo Sounder predominantly as a primary sensor.

We're mobilising here in Fremantle today, so start of December.

The first activity, we go and we start deploying some of the seabed tide gauge frames, we deploy some current metres for measuring the tidal flow across the site and we deploy GNSS buoys.

So they're also assisting with the tide observation program.

Then we move into hydrographic surveying operations, which is predominantly running survey lines up and down the coast.

The area off the coast of Margaret River is highly protected and it's a sensitive area for the marine environment in which we're operating.

We're operating in two marine parks – the Ngari Capes State Park and the south west corner, a federally managed marine park by Parks Australia. So a really sensitive area, really important ecologically.

If the community are at all interested in understanding more about the project or wanting more information, then we'd encourage them to call MMA's office and be put in contact with myself, I'll be happy to take people through what we're doing.

This is a really exciting project for MMA Offshore, we're really excited to be performing a project that's immediately off the coast of our head office.

It's a great opportunity to mobilise the boat here locally in Fremantle, support local industry in doing that, and then using local crew on our vessel from the south west to perform the work, so really unique and we look forward to an exciting and successful project.