

# Crawford's expertise delivers in a protected reef zone

## CHALLENGE

A privately owned vessel, operated solo, was caught in strong winds off Fraser Island. After a violent wave caused serious injuries to the skipper, the vessel was unable to approach land safely and eventually ran aground on the eastern reef of Lady Elliot Island, inside the "Green Zone" of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, one of the world's most protected and sensitive marine environments.

The site was remote, accessible only by boat and with strict environmental protections. The vessel's fibreglass hull posed risks to coral, avian and marine life, and human health. Time was critical, with the wreck exposed to tides and peak wildlife season underway.

## SOLUTION

Crawford was engaged by the Insurer to urgently remove the wreck. The response required technical skill, agility, and close collaboration.

Crawford worked closely with regulators, local authorities and specialist salvage crews. Equipment was flown in by charter, silt booms were deployed, and the wreck was wrapped in geo fabric to stop fibreglass debris from entering the reef. Low-impact anchor points were drilled into the reef, and a custom cradle was built to shift the damaged vessel into deeper water, addressing both the collapsed hull and the 250-metre move needed for transfer to a barge and crane.

Throughout, Crawford maintained daily communication with all parties – regulators, island staff, salvage teams, and the Insurer – facilitating transparency and alignment.

## INDUSTRY

Marine

## LOCATION

Lady Elliot Island, Queensland, Australia

## CLAIM TYPE

Marine Salvage / Wreck Removal

## RESULTS

- ✓ Vessel removed safely with no significant impact to the reef or local wildlife
- ✓ All environmental and regulatory requirements met
- ✓ Operation completed within a tight timeframe, minimising disruption to the area
- ✓ Commended by both the insurer and local authorities for effective coordination
- ✓ Sensitive marine habitat protected during a critical period