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Fears of delays in sea rescues

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TASMANIANS in trouble at sea could face an extra long wait for police help, the Police Association fears.

Concerns have surfaced after the relocation of the police marine and rescue fleet from central Hobart to the Eastern Shore last month.

The association said it had received several complaints from officers who feared the move from the Domain Slipway to the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania would increase response time and endanger lives.

The Tasmanian Police Association's Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said it could increase the travel time from marine division's headquarters in Federal St, North Hobart to the rescue vessels by more than 10 minutes.

"People are concerned about the response time, in a good situation it could add an additional five to 10 minutes," he said.

"The Tasman Bridge definitely complicates matters, and adds extra concern."

Marine and Rescue Services Inspector Ross Paine said: "I don't see it causing any dysfunction or that it will hamper our ability to execute a rescue".

Tasmanian Ports Corporation, which owns the Domain Slipway, asked tenants, including Tasmania Police, to leave the yard in November last year.

TasPorts chief operations officer David Phillips said the move would allow the corporation to centralise its own tug and marine vessels, saving money on a lease it was keeping at Prince of Wales Bay.

Police had a extension of time on their lease.