

## Port of Townsville Limited (POTL) Community Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 29 March - 5.15pm to 6.30pm  
**Venue:** Meeting Room, Amaroo on Mandalay, Magnetic Island  
**Chair:** Ranee Crosby, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Townsville Limited

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### Attendees

Ranee Crosby	Chair, CEO POTL	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep
Sharon Hoops	POTL Manager Corporate Affairs	Ian Ferguson	Community Rep
Annie Ilett	POTL, Community Engagement Officer Magnetic Island	Judy Newman	Community Rep
Adam Hinks	Community Rep	Julie Carmody	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association
Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
Andrew Eslick	Tourism Operators & Businesses Magnetic Island	Scott Hayles-Stanley	Community Rep
Brendon Nolan	Community Rep	Sharon Marks	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Chris Miegel	Community Rep	Taryn Krawczyk	Community Rep
Dale McKenzie	Community Rep		

### Apologies

Dale Brooker	Community Rep	Lloyd Whitby	Community Rep
Keith Noble	Community Rep	Melinda Loudon	POTL, Environment & Planning Manager
Ken Dunlop	Sun Metals	Paul Crocombe	Community Rep
Stephen Ellis	Community Rep		

#### 1. Welcome/apologies (Chair)

Chair Ranee Crosby welcomed all members to the Port of Townsville's Community Liaison Group to its first meeting and thanked members for their time and taking an interest in what the Port of Townsville is doing. Apologies noted – the impact of Cyclone Debbie in the preceding days has had an impact on attendance levels.

#### 2. Introductions around the table

Attending CLG members introduced themselves and provided a short background on their history and a summary of what they hoped to achieve by being a part of this group.

A list of CLG members and a one line bio can be found on the Port of Townsville website here:

<https://www.townsville-port.com.au/environment-community/community/community-liaison-group/>

### 3. Terms of Reference

Sharon Hoops tabled the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CLG, requesting feedback from all members by Wednesday 19 April by email or phone. The revised draft will be tabled at the meeting in May for adoption.

**Action:** All members to review ToR and provide feedback to Sharon Hoops by 19/4 – [shoops@townsvilleport.com.au](mailto:shoops@townsvilleport.com.au) or 07 4781 1441

### 4. Recap of the Port Stakeholder Working Group and transition to CLG

Ranee Crosby provided a snapshot of how and why the Port Stakeholder Working Group (PSWG) was established in 2015 (in response to community concerns about air quality). The PSWG was on air quality and lead levels in air around the Port. Three of its many achievements include:

- Real time monitoring available to the public ([link here](#))
- The monthly publication of the [Townsville Port Operations Dashboard](#)
- Publication of a “[Frequently Asked Questions](#)” document – available on the Port’s website here.

The PSWG was seen as successful community forum as it brought transparency to the table. The good work of the PSWG will be carried on by the CLG, but with a broader scope to discuss all issues relating to port operations including trade and new cargo, major projects, white and grey ship attraction, environmental monitoring and stakeholder/community engagement. Two of the community members of the PSWG have transitioned to the CLG (Judy Newman and Ian Ferguson) to maintain continuity.

### 5. Discussion of future set up of agenda, recurring items and process for future agenda submissions

Standing agenda items will include the following updates from POTL:

- Trade and new cargo
- Environmental monitoring (air and water)
- Major projects including the Townsville Port Expansion Project
- White and Grey Ship-Attraction Committee (WGSAC) updates
- Complaints received and how they were handled
- Stakeholder engagement/communication and events

Members were invited to provide further input into what agenda items they would like to see addressed in future meetings. Items suggested included:

- Water quality and reasons for turbidity in Cleveland bay
- How is dredging done and what are the impacts?
- An overview of all environmental monitoring programs – water quality, air, seagrass (other) and how Townsville compares to other ports around Australia/world.
- effects of the Port on Cleveland Bay and Magnetic Island
- What are the long-term benefits of widening the channel? (economic and social)

- Explain the difference between capital dredging and maintenance dredging processes, (both environmental impacts, costs and methodology)
- Full presentation and detail on the Port Expansion Project
- What are the commercial liabilities of the Port?
- Conversation around environmental sustainability into the future and associated subjects/topics such as greenhouse gas emissions, renewables and the balance with climate change impacts

**Action:** Sharon Hoops to prepare a draft timeline for POTL to present the requested agenda items to CLG.

**Action:** POTL to provide a detailed presentation on PEP at the next CLG

**Action:** Melinda Loudon to present information on the differences between capital and maintenance dredging at next meeting

## 6. How does the Port communicate and engage at present?

The Port has a broad range of communication and engagement tools including:

- The Port of Townsville website – [www.townsvilleport.com.au](http://www.townsvilleport.com.au)
- Stories about what we do, our significance to the region and updates on trade are posted at least weekly to our four social media channels – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- A monthly “What’s Happening” ½ page ad is published on the last weekend of every month in the Townsville Bulletin and the final Tuesday of each month in the Magnetic Island Community News.
- The White and Grey-Ship Attraction Committee (Chaired by Sharon Hoops) distributes a monthly report on progress.
- An annual Port Community Information Session (September) is held at Quayside Terminal
- Port tours are held for schools, community groups and elderly homes at least once per week.
- The Port Stakeholder Working Group used to meet monthly (now the CLG).
- POTL holds an annual fundraiser golf day (this year on 21 July) to raise money for a selected not-for-profit organisation

## 7. Port Update

The Port of Townsville handles more than 30 different commodities totalling 9.7million tonnes last financial year worth over \$10 billion.

The past 12 months has shown growth in most sectors, with a decrease in bulk materials handled due to the cessation of Queensland Nickel operations. 399 vessels have arrived at Townsville Port so far this financial year.

The Port has carried out significant infrastructure investment projects over the past five years valued at around \$500 million including the upgrades of Berths 10 and Berth 8/9, the demolition of Berth 6/7 and the Port Access Road.

The \$1.6 billion Port Expansion Project is awaiting final environmental approvals and is a staged development over 30-50s to cater for growth in trade over time in line with demand.

The business case for the Stage 1 channel widening is currently being done (submission in April 2017) and public submissions from the EIS and AEIS are being addressed for the consideration of the regulators.

The Port is also increasing the container capacity through the \$40.7 million upgrade of Berth 4 and recently announced it has shortlisted three operators for the upgraded facility.

The Port continues to work with its near neighbours in a Community Amenity Project to mitigate noise and dust impacts from the Port and improve visual amenity through landscaping in conjunction with the Australian Conservation Volunteers.

The Port is working with its tenants such as Reef HQ, Museum and others on the Harbour City Gateway project which forms part of the Townsville City Council Master Plan to embrace the maritime history of the Townsville waterfront.

## **8. General business**

Members asked the following questions:

- Will there be a deepening of the channel into port? (yes in Stage 3 of PEP – to be covered in PEP presentation next meeting)
- How many applications were there for the CLG and were any nominations declined? (More than 23, yes some declined, POTL still in discussions with NQCC with regards to their nomination).
- Will there be a re-scheduled port tour? (Yes, Sharon Hoops to re-schedule and send invite)

## **9. Meeting Close**

The Chair noted that there is a lot of information to get through in the next few meetings to bring all the CLG members up to speed. CLG members are encouraged to contact POTL reps at any time if they require any further detail.

Next meeting: Wednesday 26 April at 5pm at Quayside Terminal (just outside port gates on Lennon Drive – free parking at the front of building).

Meeting closed 6.50pm