

## Townsville Port Community Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 7 March 2018 – 5pm  
**Venue:** Quayside Terminal, Lennon Drive, South Townsville  
**Chair:** Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

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### Attendees

1	Annie Ilett	POTL, Magnetic Island Community Engagement Officer	7	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
2	Chris Miegel	Community Rep	8	Norman Rains	Birdlife Townsville
3	Ian Ferguson	Community Rep	9	Ranee Crosby	CEO, POTL
4	Keith Noble	Community Rep	10	Sharon Marks	Conservation Volunteers Australia
5	Ken Dunlop	Sunmetals	11	Vern Veitch	Community Rep
6	Kim Gebers	POTL, Manager Infrastructure			

### Apologies

Adam Hinks	Community Rep	Judy Newman	Community Rep
Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee	Julie Carmody	Magnetic Island Residents & Ratepayers Association
Anthony Kyle	Glencore	Lloyd Whitby	Community Rep
Brendon Nolan	Community Rep	Melinda Loudon	POTL, Environment & Planning Manager
Dale Brooker	Community Rep	Paul Crocombe	Community Rep
Dale McKenzie	Community Rep	Sharon Hoops	POTL, Manager Corporate Affairs
Heath Hatfield	Community Rep	Stephen Ellis	Community Rep

### Actions Summary

#### Action:

1. Annie to include a copy of the cruise ship schedule with these minutes
2. CLG members to provide any further input to POTL's Water Quality Dashboard
3. POTL Environment team to further develop the Water Quality Dashboard to address CLG comments and present at the next meeting of the CLG
4. CLG members to provide any further input to Annie on the Dredging and Water Quality in Cleveland Bay Frequently Asked Questions document
5. POTL to further develop the document to address CLG comments and present at the next meeting of the CLG for any final comments before putting on the POTL website.

## Attachments

- Marine Water Quality Dashboard Update
- Port Update Notes
- Cruise ship schedule for 2018
- Dredging and Water Quality in Cleveland Bay Frequently Asked Questions – draft for comment

### 1. Welcome/apologies (Chair)

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's tenth meeting. It was noted that last week's scheduled meeting was postponed due to severe weather warnings for the Townsville region and that the visit to REEFVTS has been re-scheduled for 30 May due to REEFVTS staff needing to be in Brisbane. Apologies for tonight's meeting were noted.

### 2. Record of previous meeting held 29 November 2017 on Magnetic Island

The Minutes of the previous meeting was adopted without change. All actions have been completed.

### 3. Cruise ship attraction to the Port of Townsville

The presentation was held over until the next CLG meeting as Sharon was unavoidably unable to attend the meeting. Raneë Crosby gave an update on the cruise ship attraction program including:

- the White and Grey Ship Attraction Committee has been renamed Townsville Cruise Ship Committee
- this group is made up of a broad range of Townsville regional officials, organisations and businesses who together work on cruise ship infrastructure needs, the welcome experience at Quayside Terminal and in the City, the attractions the North Queensland region offers and building relationships with the cruise lines
- 19 cruise ships are due to visit Townsville this year, nearly twice as many as last year. We've had 5 ships this year already and the "turn-around" ship in September (where passengers can board a cruise ship in Townsville) sold out very quickly
- the cruise ship program is well above where we hoped it would be in the 5 year Plan.

A copy of this Plan may be found at <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/os-data-2/port-townsville/documents/2016-2021-wgsa-plan-final.pdf>

Sharon Marks and Leon Kippin both shared their very positive experience of touring the *Seabourn Encore* when it was in Port last week. They expressed that it greatly helped their role of being ambassadors for the cruise ship industry in Townsville and the presentation of the photograph of the ship in Port and scarf for the Captain's wife went over very well. Sharon noted that some of the information being given out by the ship about Townsville was dated and in places inaccurate. She was also keen to assist with developing activities for the crew whilst in Port – interest has been expressed by cruise ships for such activities including voluntary involvement in community programs such as conservation activities. It was noted that the recent crew basketball games were highly successful.

Tours of future visiting cruise ships may be possible to arrange for other members of the CLG, noting that notice of at least five days needs to be given to make the arrangements and meet security check requirements. The cruise ship schedule may be found at [townsvilleport.com.au](http://townsvilleport.com.au)

**Action:** Annie to include a copy of the cruise ship schedule with these minutes

#### **4. Port Water Quality Dashboard - an update**

Kim Gebers presented POTL's update on the Port Water Quality Dashboard project (attached). Members noted that there have been a few issues with the water quality monitoring buoys which are currently being addressed, including:

- both sonnes attached to Big Bertha buoy at 5m and 10m depths have disappeared, possibly eaten by animals. A temporary sonne has been installed at 1m to continue monitoring water quality data
- ensuring adequate lighting for navigation safety – currently being resolved with MSQ
- systems for getting the heavy equipment in and out of vessels safely
- keeping the sensors clean

Bobby the buoy is currently being serviced and will be put back in the mouth of the Ross River as soon as possible.

The Magnetic Island buoys are yet to be deployed once the issues around navigation lighting and mooring system are resolved with MSQ.

The Marine Water Quality Dashboard is still being commissioned as the software is being finalised. CLG members will be invited to try out the dashboard when a test-bed version goes live in the next month or so, prior to the dashboard being finalised and released publicly.

Sharon Marks indicated she would like to put information in her Landcare newsletter once the dashboard is up and running.

The CLG agreed to rename the existing Operations Dashboard (containing air quality data) to Air Quality Dashboard and add a couple of proposed new graphs on TIM dust deposition, 3 month rolling lead levels and include calendar year graphs. These changes reflect the new requirements of the Queensland Department of Environment and Science Licensing system.

#### **Actions:**

1. CLG members to provide any further input to POTL's Water Quality Dashboard.
2. POTL Environment team to further develop the Water Quality Dashboard to address CLG comments and present at the next meeting of the CLG.

#### **5. Water Quality Frequently Asked Questions**

The latest draft of the *Water Quality in Cleveland Bay and Dredging Frequently Asked Questions* document was tabled. It was noted that this document was a "work in progress".

CLG members were invited to provide feedback on the document, particularly in relation to the level of language used and usefulness to their communities, together with any other questions that members feel should be included.

**Action:**

- CLG members to provide any further input to Annie on the document.
- POTL to further develop the document to address CLG comments and present at the next meeting of the CLG for any final comments before putting on the POTL website.

**6. Port Updates – as per circulated document (attached)**

Additional discussion points:

- Final environmental approvals for the Port Expansion Project (including 6 new berths, reclamation works and channel widening and deepening over a 30 year period) have been obtained from both Federal and State Governments. \$118m of the \$193m first stage of PEP, being the Channel Capacity Upgrade Project, has been committed (\$75m from State Government, \$43m from POTL). The Federal Government has been requested to provide the additional \$75m – hopefully resolved by April.
- Operational works for the channel widening to meet the conditions of the approvals are underway. The Project will be managed internally by POTL.
- Tendering to source local companies where cost effective and available in Townsville will commence soon for a range of activities, including supply and haulage of rock, construction of the reclaim area wall, capital dredging.
- The first stage of the project is to ensure the rock wall around the reclamation area is ready to receive the dredge material. Primary armour may largely come from the POTL quarry near the Ross River Dam. POTL will soon be seeking Expressions of Interest from local quarries to supply the armour rock and secondary rock. The Port Access Road, Flinders Highway and Riverway Drive will be used for transport of the rock.
- Most of the skills required for construction activities are already in the region. Briefings for potential contractors will be held when POTL has more certainty regarding timings for the project following final funding approvals. A dedicated website for the project has been established at [https://www.channelcapacityupgrade.com.au/ where details of procurement activities and job opportunities will also be listed \(in addition to other sites such as the e-tender website of the Queensland Government and POTL's general website\).](https://www.channelcapacityupgrade.com.au/where%20details%20of%20procurement%20activities%20and%20job%20opportunities%20will%20also%20be%20listed%20(in%20addition%20to%20other%20sites%20such%20as%20the%20e-tender%20website%20of%20the%20Queensland%20Government%20and%20POTL's%20general%20website).)
- Sharon Marks advised the CLG that Conservation Volunteers were undertaking a weed management plan for a trial site at the quarry – a great local incentive.
- Trade has got off to a good start on 2018 – much improved on two years ago. The first cattle ship from Northern Australia to China left Townsville Port recently after a number of years of work on quarantine approvals, and new ventures such as MMG and Capricorn had started exporting through the Port. The Queensland Nickel berth is still subject to Court proceedings, with no movement likely until at least July.
- The \$40.7 million upgrade of Berth 4 has been successfully completed on schedule and well within budget, with primary works by local company CivilPlus. The berth opened to commercial shipping on 1st March.

- There had been a noticeable increase in nuisance dust – largely due to the dry weather and containerised solar panel activity around Huber Street. Measures have been undertaken to reduce dust levels in the short term, and POTL has determined that use of sites in this location in future will be carefully considered to ensure no adverse amenity impacts.
- Kim Gebers will develop a presentation for a future CLG meeting regarding how the regulators selected the current Dredge Material Placement Area site and the dredge approvals process, including the role of other committees including the Technical Advisory and Consultative Committee (TACC) for dredging, comprising regulators.
- The Harbour City development is still progressing and meeting the milestones. SeaLink is the proponent of a Market Led Proposal for the Ferry Terminal Development with Honeycombes as their preferred developer. SeaLink has agreed to present to a future CLG meeting once the MLP has progressed further. Work continues to progress development of ReefHQ and the Cultural Centre.
- Keith Noble advised the CLG that Kim Gebers is speaking about the Port at the PechaKucha Night on Thursday 15 March at 6pm at Umbrella Studios. All are invited to attend.

## 7. General Business

POTL CEO Raneë Crosby invited feedback from CLG members about what they were hearing from their community about Port activities, including Port Expansion and Channel Capacity Upgrade.

Points raised:

- Banter/publicity on social media from certain scientists regarding how terrible dredging is, particularly in relation to impacts on the Reef and climate change. Suggest there needs to be some engagement with notable scientists and ways to explain what is being done by POTL.
- Still the perception that dredge spoil will be pumped into Cleveland Bay “willy-nilly” – Need to change this mindset and communicate what is being done better.
- Outrageous social media regarding the *Brisbane* dredge dumping on the GBR – how to correct this.
- Dredge/Dredge Material Placement Area causing extra turbidity around Magnetic Island beaches, smothering coral, spoiling the marine tourism experience is a common misconception. Can we “tag” sediment particles in Cleveland Bay in a similar way to Steve Lewis’ / Tropwater’s work in the Burdekin or have other ways of addressing the concerns?

Raneë asked what other different communication channels could we use / how could we better communicate? Suggestions made:

- POTL talk direct to the media (e.g. on camera/radio), rather than rely on interpretation by the media
- Independent Technical Advisory Group (ITAG) provides 3<sup>rd</sup> party experts to help counter scientific community comments. Provides an ITAG position, not individual views. ITAG could also present to CLG and/or community forum.
- Other opportunities to communicate information to people in the region:
  - Reef Guardian Schools (GBRMPA network)
  - Port presentations at community events e.g. PechaKucha Night

### Community Volunteer opportunities for visiting crew

Sharon Marks is working with POTL to develop community volunteer opportunities requested for the crews of visiting cruise ships, following the success of the basketball games arranged for the crew.

### Port Update notes

Leon Kippin praised the February Port Update notes saying “there was a lot of good stuff in it”.

Next meeting: Wednesday 28 March 2018 at 5pm in South Townsville, venue to be advised.

Meeting closed 6.35pm