

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday 31 July 2019, 5pm
Venue: Port of Townsville, Administration Building, Boardroom
Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, POTL (Chair)	8	Rick Vernon	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association
2	Kim Gebers	GM Infrastructure POTL	9	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
3	Kim Wheatley	Manager Corporate Affairs POTL	10	Leslie Sampson	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
4	Martin Powley	Public Relations Officer, CU Project POTL	11	Sharon Marks	Community Rep
5	Emily Harrington	Corporate Affairs Administration Officer (minutes)	12	Bevan Lord	Townsville Ross River Marina
6	Norman Rains	Townsville Birdlife	13	Keith Nobel	Community Rep
7	Ian Ferguson	Community Rep	14	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep

Apologies

1	Adam Hink	Community Rep	6	Ken Dunlop	Sun Metals
2	Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC)	7	Melinda Loudon	Manager Environment POTL
3	Christopher Miegel	Community Rep	8	Paul Crocombe	Community Rep
4	John Cordingley	Glencore	9	Vern Veitch	Community Rep
5	Judy Newman	Community Rep			

Actions Summary

- ACTION:** Provide CLG with Materiality survey report.
- ACTION:** Kim G to organise ITAC Chair to come to a suitable future CLG meeting and provide updates
- ACTION:** Kim G to provide FAQ's to CLG
- ACTION:** Kim W to provide DAIS update at next CLG meeting
- ACTION:** ITAC and Melinda to give Environmental updates

1. Welcome/apologies (Chair)

Chair Ranee Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 23rd meeting and noted apologies.

2. Record of previous meeting held 29 May 2019

The Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without change and all actions have been completed or are addressed at this meeting.

3. Port Vision 2050 – Project Status Update

Ranee spoke about the Materiality survey which had 247 respondents to investigate what stakeholders valued. There was a difference between internal and external values with regards to the environment, the economy and cruise. It was felt that while external people rated the environment as the highest priority, POTL staff rated the economic activity as the highest priority, as staff were more informed about POTLs environmental credentials. One take-out was that POTL has to better enunciate its environmental credentials. Once the report is finalised it will be presented to the CLG at the next meeting.

Ranee also spoke about the Port's development plans. The last master plan was completed in 2010.

ACTION: Provide CLG with Materiality survey report

Kim G gave an update on the Channel Upgrade Project. Management plans and strategies are being finalised for submission next week which will be a big step forward for the project. An ITAC workshop was held last month which was productive but also challenging to get the group together as they live all over Australia. POTL will look at getting the Chair, Dr Brett Kettle to speak to the CLG. Kim also spoke about the confusion with the PMG barge doing routine maintenance work for MSQ, and some members of the public imagining that this was a dredge.

ACTION: Kim G to organise ITAC Chair to come to a suitable future CLG meeting and provide ITAC updates.

General comments from the CLG about the Channel Upgrade Project.

Martin P has been engaging with the Ross River neighbours including the Townsville Marine Precinct (TMP), Defence and recreational fishers and has been getting a positive response. They appreciate having a point of contact for the CU project, as well as having information about the scope of the project and how it will affect them.

There was discussion about the build-up of silt and sand at the mouth of the river as a consequence of the floods. Kim G told the CLG that some of the excess sand from the mouth of the creek has been transferred to Rows Bay by the council. The sand is also being used as part of land-fill for a Berth 4 backing land project.

4. Channel Upgrade FAQ

Kim G presented the draft Channel Upgrade FAQs which will be placed on the website. He also asked for feedback from the CLG to make sure the Port is getting the right information across.

General comments from the CLG about the Channel Upgrade FAQ

- Depends on demographics as how the FAQ's are distributed to the community e.g. Via videos on social media or a mail drop.
- Martin P - there are currently FAQ's on the website, and they are being updated as we become aware of what people want to know. More information has been provided about capital and maintenance dredging.
- Question was posed about how to better communicate information to the Townsville and Magnetic Island community.

Each environmental monitoring program will be its own specific communication tools, but the CU Project FAQs will provide a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the project.

ACTION: Kim G to provide FAQ's to CLG

5. **Port Updates** as per circulated document (attached)

Ranee spoke about the total trade figures showing a 4.7 per cent increase this financial year, which comes in spite of the floods and the large numbers of renewable and bulk products imported due partly to last year's solar projects. Nearly every commodity the Port exports is up from last year except for fertiliser due to the flooding. Imports were down apart from cement and there are lots of new projects happening at the Port which has increased media visits.

Reef House Investment Group was chosen as the preferred proponent to build a multi-million dollar premium development on a prime waterfront site on Flinders St. The development will be built on the site of the old GBRMPA offices. The Townsville-based developers are still in the planning stages of the project. Kim W spoke about the rebranding of Harbour City and using specialists DAIS to help rebrand and revitalise the precinct, while giving a nod to the city's history. It should be finalised in September and will give an update at next meeting.

The dilapidated Curtain Brothers shed has come down which will help with redeveloping the area. A new footpath is being built from Quayside Terminal (cruise ship terminal) past the old shed site to link up with Palmer St. It will link with the Palmer St revitalisation, of which the lighthouse the key component.

The number of cruise ships coming to the Port will drop from a record 16 in 2018/19 to 12 in 2019/20 due in part to our narrow navigational channel. It was mentioned that cruise ships are already bypassing Townsville Port and the importance of the Channel Upgrade project as ship sizes are getting bigger. Kim W and Nyree from Corporate Affairs will attend the Australian Cruise Association Conference in September to update the industry on the Channel Upgrade project along with timelines for 300m ships coming to the Port. Carnival is one coming that is interested in the Channel Upgrade and was excited to hear about the plans for the Museum of Underwater Arts. Other Corporate Affairs engagement projects included the Fishing and Outdoor Expo. The Port also had lots of activity with the Defence ships docking as part of Talisman Sabre.

Ranee also mentioned that recent media announcement from the Deputy Premier around the Berth 4 Crane and Cargo Terminal Area and the confusion with another major project the Port is undertaking, the Intermodal Terminal Project.

Kim G spoke about the recent smell around the Port and how the environmental team is pumping the material into the dredge pond for treatment. He also mentioned that natural bugs were being used to restore the Ph balance.

There was brief discussion around a media report of a lead dust issue and Air Quality monitoring. The media was provided with FAQs previously developed by the PSWG, which clearly answered the issues.

A telemetry buoy at Arthur Bay was damaged by wave and wind action and it's replacement was also damaged, so as a result this location will no longer be used. P14 weather station will be replaced and information uploaded to the website.

The Port is helping a local indigenous training group with providing sites and material for training around landscape management.

General comments from the CLG about the Port Updates.

- A questions was asked about the Ethanol project - Port has not received any recent updates on this..
- Asked about AIMS Office in new Flinders Street development – there are a range of possible options, however the Port will collaborate with AIMS for the best outcome.
- Clarification was provided about the role of Independent Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) members. The committee is made up of independent environmental and technical specialists who provide advice to the Channel Upgrade Project in a number of areas related to the project. Discussion about marine water monitoring data and its availability to the public.
- There was some general discussion about the perception that channel maintenance dredging impacts on locations such as Geoffrey Bay on Magnetic Island. Kim Gebers reiterated previous turbidity data (compiled by AIMS) that shows no correlation between maintenance dredging and higher sediment levels at Geoffrey Bay.

ACTION: Kim W to provide DAIS update at next CLG meeting

ACTION: ITAC and Melinda to give Environmental updates

6. Around the Table and General Business

- Maintenance dredging will occur when it is available from Brisbane, there is often confusion with the PMG barge. Modelling done of the Bay in regard to placement options and this will be shared in a few months and Steve Lewis (JCU) will come to talk to group.
- Tug Tour was a big success, and everyone enjoyed the experience.
- CLG appreciated been able to have a meeting to discuss matters.
- Comments about Bean Bag spill at magnetic island and who is responsible for what response. There are different levels of response and responsibility for such pollution events depending on what the issue is; this particular event did not require a Port response.
- Update on QNI
- Sharon Marks provided a handout from for the Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters to ask for feedback. The organisation has released the Pilot Report Card for Cleveland Bay. There were several areas that needed more information such as the economic figures. Also trying to get more trainees and government funding. CLG suggested the State Government Data Collection (?) might be able to fill in areas for Magnetic Island.
- Kim W mentioned the Maritime Museum's Krait exhibition and the majority of the group knew about that mission.
- Martin mentioned CU site is happy for CLG to tour or just visit the site and provide information if needed.

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th September 2019
Suggested Tour – Queensland Sugar Limited

Meeting closed at approximately 6:30pm