

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group



Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020 – 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)	8	Leslie Sampson	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
2	Marissa Wise	GM Infrastructure and Environment, Port of Townsville	9	Sharon Marks	Community Rep
3	Claudia Brumme-Smith	GM Business Strategy and Sustainability, Port of Townsville	10	Vern Veitch	Community Rep
4	Kim Wheatley	Manager Corporate Affairs, Port of Townsville	11	Ken Dunlop	Sun Metals
5	Melinda Loudon	Manager Environment, Channel Upgrade project Port of Townsville	12	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
6	Sarah Mathiesen	Corporate Affairs and Capital Works Officer, Port of Townsville (Minutes)	13	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep
7	Norm Rains	Townsville Birdlife			

Apologies

1	Judy Newman	Community Rep	6	Elaine Glen	PoT Environment Team
2	Keith Nobel	Community Rep	7	Rick Vernon	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association
3	Ian Ferguson	Community Rep	8	Adam Hinks	Community Rep
4	Bevan Lord	Townsville Ross River Marina	9	John Cordingley	Glencore
5	Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC)			

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

ACTION: Sarah Mathiesen to share Community Survey presentation with CLG members (COMPLETE)

ACTION: Elaine and Marissa to present on long-term Dredge Management Plan at next CLG meeting.

ACTION: Kim Wheatley to extend an invitation to Jill Abel to present at a future CLG meeting.

ACTION: Leslie will ask the MICDA coordinator to share the report on World Heritage Areas.

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

ACTION: Port to provide Channel Upgrade dredge and reclamation tender update to CLG members

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 28th meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (15 July 2020)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 July 2020 were adopted without change. All actions have been completed or were addressed during the meeting, except for an update on the Channel Upgrade project dredge and reclamation tender. As the tender is currently under assessment this action will be held over to the next CLG meeting on 25 November 2020.

3. Community Survey

Claudia Brumme-Smith, General Manager Business Strategy and Sustainability presented the results of the recent Community Survey undertaken by the Port of Townsville. The survey was completed by 132 people and showed 88 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the Port. Claudia said inviting comments and feedback from the community was vital to informing how the Port would engage with the community over the next five years and beyond.

Some key findings from the survey that Claudia highlighted include:

- People in the 45-64 years age bracket were best represented,
- 72.5 per cent of respondents strongly agree that the Port is vital to the local economy,
- More than 80 per cent of respondents agree that the Port acts responsibly,
- The majority of respondents (30%) receive updates from the Port via social media,
- Positive comments were received about the Port's role in driving the economy, growing Townsville's cruise strategy and developing the Port,

- Common concerns were mostly in relation to dust issues and the reef.

With the Port is preparing to launch a Community Fund, the survey provided good insight into thoughts on how the Port can better support the community. The Port will fine-tune its method for communicating information and gathering feedback ahead of the next survey.

ACTION: Sarah Mathiesen to send presentation to CLG members (COMPLETE).

4. Channel Upgrade Environmental Monitoring Update

Melinda Loudon, Manager Environment for the Channel Upgrade project presented on three of the monitoring programs being undertaken by the Channel Upgrade (CU) project: coral, seagrass and water quality.

Coral monitoring is being undertaken quarterly at 10 locations. The study has just undergone a pilot program to identify the best methods and sample sites before establishing a baseline for CU monitoring. A comparison of sampling techniques and recommendations will be taken to the Independent Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), with the final methodology to be adopted in the December 2020 survey to gather baseline data before capital dredging begins.

Seagrass monitoring is undertaken by TropWATER twice per year. Overall, seagrass is doing well. No seagrass occurs in the port reclamation area, although it is present in the Western Breakwater realignment area. Monitoring is ongoing.

Water quality monitoring is being undertaken in 13 locations aligned with the coral and seagrass sites. The ITAC is assessing water quality data to establish trigger values to determine if and when the Port needs to take action during the capital dredging program. That information will be captured in the dredge management plan (DMP), which will be available online upon completion.

The CLG provided the following feedback:

- Vern Veitch thanked Melinda for her presentation.
- Leslie Sampson asked whether trigger values for the capital dredging would be related to maintenance dredging. Melinda explained that the Port has a well-established understanding of the impacts of maintenance dredging, while capital dredging typically has a different profile. The Port continuously applies its learning to its adaptive management for maintenance dredging and has been doing so for a long time.
- Leslie said he had been expecting an update for some time from GHD about maintenance dredging and whether the deposit site could be moved to deeper water. Raneé reassured the CLG that the Port has made a commitment to assess the long term DMP, however it is a lengthy process that not only requires assessment of the benefits of changing the site, but also the impact on any new location being considered. Marissa suggested that the next TAC was coming up in November, and that perhaps the long term DMP could be brought into focus then.

ACTION: Elaine and Marissa to present on long term Dredge Management Plan at next CLG meeting.

5. Channel Upgrade project virtual site tour

A video tour of the Channel Upgrade project was shared with CLG members.

Ranee corrected rock delivery figures: approximately 650,000 tonnes of rock has now been delivered to site. Ranee also commented that the capital dredging contract is currently under assessment.

Comments from the CLG:

- Sharon Marks asked whether the Port has appointed a contractor for water pumping from the reclaim area. Marissa responded that there would be pumps put in place to perform this task.
- Sharon asked about any fauna trapped inside the wall. Marissa explained that a number of fauna removal activities have already been conducted, and that further clearing activities will be undertaken once Stage 3 works are complete and fauna can no longer make its way back into the reclaim area at high tide.

6. Port Updates

Kim Wheatley, Manager Corporate Affairs presented an update from the cruise industry. Australia's cruise ban remains in place until 17 December 2020. Currently, the Port has 12 cruise bookings for 2021, with the first expected on 7 January 2021. At this stage, it is unlikely the January and February bookings will eventuate. There is demand for the cruise industry to operate again. The industry is making significant changes to ensure COVID-safe procedures including reduced capacity on ships, shore visits via guided tours only, and cruising within jurisdictions. Australia is closely watching overseas cruise industries in Europe, Japan and China. The US is looking at a staged return to shipping as early as November. Kim will invite Jill Abel to provide an update to CLG if it is warranted.

Ranee added that Townsville will not doing anything out of step with the rest of Australia in terms of cruising. There have been revisions to rules – the 14-day period on ships is no longer seen as a quarantine period, which means crew were denied shore leave from vessels, without entering controlled quarantine first.

Ranee advised that the Annual Report had been tabled and made mention of some additional projects including:

- The Port working with State Government and Defence advisors to develop a proposal for Townsville to be the location of a new Australian Army Consolidated Watercraft Base.
- The Port working with several proponents on hydrogen export opportunities. The Queensland Government has announced Gladstone and Townsville as potential hydrogen hubs.
- The waterfront developments have not received confirmation from the State Government or proponents for ferry terminal, given the impacts caused by COVID-19.

ACTION: Kim Wheatley to extend an invitation to Jill Abel to present at a future CLG meeting.

7. Around the Table & General Business

Ranee opened the meeting to questions and comments from the CLG.

The CLG provided the following comments:

- Leon Kippin noted a rise in community interest about the length of ships and containers coming to Townsville. He commended the Port on positive press this week. He thanked the Port for continuing to hold meetings and provide updates. Ranee agreed it was good to see the mining and agricultural sectors keeping people in jobs through a difficult period – shining a light their importance.
- Norm Rains thanked Sarah for assisting him to set-up Teams.
- Leslie Sampson advised that MICDA was funding a report being developed about where Magnetic Island sits within the World Heritage Area, which may shed some light on the dredge management plan.

Ranee mentioned there have been some increasing complaints in certain areas and the Port was reviewing its complaints monitoring process.

Ranee invited interested CLG members to be participate in Port Vision 2050 videos as the project progresses.

ACTION: Leslie will ask the MICDA coordinator to share the report about World Heritage Areas.

ACTION: Invite Claudia or Tracey to share Port Vision 2050 at next CLG.

Meeting closed at approximately 5.04pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for 25 November 2020 at 4pm.