

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 5:00pm, Wednesday 26 February 2020
Venue: Port of Townsville Board Room, Administration Building, Benwell Road, South Townsville
Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port (Chair)	9	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
2	Kim Wheatley	Manager Corporate Affairs, Port	10	Ken Dunlop	Sun Metals
3	Elaine Glen	A/Manager Environment & Planning, Port	11	Vern Veitch	Community Rep
4	Emily Harrington	Corporate Affairs Administration Officer, Port	12	Judy Newman	Community Rep
5	Martin Gledhill	Manager Engineering, Port	13	Sharon Marks	Community Rep
6	Marissa Wise	GM Infrastructure & Environment, Port	14	Adam Hinks	Community Rep
7	Naomi Smith	Environmental Technician, Port	15	John Cordingley	Glencore
8	Norm Rains	Townsville Birdlife	16	Keith Nobel	Community Rep

Apologies

1	Rick Vernon	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association	4	Leslie Sampson	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
2	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep	5	Bevan Lord	Townsville Ross River Marina
3	Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC)			

Actions Summary

ACTION: Port to arrange future presentation of Port Vision 2050.

ACTION: Port to arrange site visit Berth 4 once it is finished.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Ranee Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 26th meeting and noted apologies.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 November 2019 were adopted without change. All actions have been completed or were addressed during the meeting.

3. Water Quality Dashboard

Elaine Glen (Acting Manager Environmental and Planning) and Naomi Smith (Environmental Technician) gave an update on Water Quality Monitoring and the Dashboard. They explained some of the water monitoring challenges to real-time data including growths on the equipment, turtles playing with the buoys, damage from rough weather and flooding and birds living and nesting on the equipment.

The most successful has been S2, a navigational marker, which has provided data 90% of the time. Naomi showed the group an example of the one of the equipment used and explained the use of the equipment and that the Port had spares which were rotated when necessary.

Elaine showed the CLG the Water Quality Dashboard on the website and explained that it has gone 'live' and how it shows the temperature, conductivity and turbidity of Cleveland Bay. The weather station helps pilots with wind speed and direction when bringing ships in. The data is also checked to ensure it's not skewed. Elaine asked the group for any feedback or questions. Questions were asked about historical data being available online and whether the data was being shared with AIMS and other scientific institutions. It was explained that the data was available for three months on the website and because it was live anyone could view it and use the information. Historical data is available on request but the website doesn't cope with a lot of historical data. Marissa commented that there would be a soft roll out before it is publicly announced. (See attached media release)

Ranee and Elaine thanked the CLG for being heavily involved in the Water Quality Dashboard.

4. Channel Upgrade Project Update

Marissa updated progress on the Rock Wall construction saying that it would commence in March and take approximately 12 months to complete. Following that, the trailer suction hopper dredging would occur for approximately six weeks and then backhoe dredging. Approximately 800,000 tonnes of rock would be used for the wall and about a quarter of the rock was on-site. Marissa explained the makeup of the wall and the various types of rock including primary and secondary armour for the outside wall and core rock, geotextile and ballast fill rock for the inner wall.

Marissa advised the group that the Independent Technical Advisory Committee would meet on 13 March.

Marissa said at that there had been no reportable environment incidents or complaints but there were opportunities for improvement with small truck oil spills and stormwater discharges highlighted areas of improvement on site. There have been a small number of safety incidents including an employee cutting their finger in the CU office kitchen and an employee tripping over rocks during an inspection. The only safety hazards so far have been a Holcim rock observed on an outbound lane and an unmarked private vehicle drove in where heavy machinery was working. These have been addressed through one-on-one follow up as well as adjustment to procedures.

Safety messages will be going out through radio, brochures and notices to ensure boaters and fishers know of the rock wall construction happening.

Questions arose about the depth of the wall, how it will be built and where the rock was coming from. Marissa and Martin explained it will be 6.6m high and be built out from the existing rock wall with no works from a barge. The rock is coming from Holcim and other local quarries. Marissa explained that the cost would be approximately \$40 million for the rock wall (including rock supply and wall construction).

5. Maintenance Dredging Overview

Martin Gledhill provided a history of dredging in Townsville since the 1880's. Currently maintenance dredging is undertaken by the Port of Brisbane under a long-term dredging contract. The vessel, called the 'Brisbane', has been the dredging vessel used for the last 20 years and a dredging campaign takes approximately 4-6 weeks per year.

Martin further explained that dredging was subject to state and federal permits and that the Port has a long term dredge management plan (available on the Port's website) that has been assessed and approved by regulators. The dredging contractor keeps a comprehensive record and log of where it has travelled. Martin noted there was the option to bring in a bed leveler which is similar to a grader. He also noted that the dredge material placement area is monitored to understand any impacts of sea placement of material.

6. Port Updates

Ranee discussed PFAS, routine monitoring and site investigations that have been occurring in the Environment Park. Cattle odour was raised and the Port is continuing to work with operators and council. Port Vision 2050 is nearing completion, and it will be presented to the CLG at the next meeting. The Port has undergone a brand refresh with the new logo to be rolled out shortly.

A question was asked about cranes that can be seen around the Port. Ranee noted that stevedores TBSH, TML and NSS had mobile harbor cranes on the berths. The Port's new ship to shore crane will be commissioned in December.

ACTION: Port to arrange a presentation of Port Vision 2050.

Kim spoke about the last-minute visit by the Viking Sun. The cruise passengers were impressed with Townsville and the visit went well. The next cruise was the super yacht Wind Spirit, which was on its maiden voyage to the southern hemisphere.

Martin gave an update on Berth 4 project, noting the terminal area is almost complete. The crane for Berth 4 will be here at the end of the year and will take three months to assemble and install.

ACTION – Port to arrange a site visit to Berth 4 once it is finished.

Marissa gave an update on Lucinda jetty pile strengthening, the Truck Staging Area and road upgrades.

Around the Table & General Business

Judy Newman asked if there were any updates about Clive Palmer, Ranee stated there were none.

Norm Rains asked if there had been any impact so far on the Port from COVID-19. Ranee said there were so far some impacts on commercial shipping due to the 14-day isolation period, with this mostly affecting car carriers, livestock vessels and container ships. Many ships have already been at sea for 10-12 days to travel to the region.

John Cordingley from Glencore said zinc prices had taken a hit but they would ride it out. John spoke about the \$6 million of improvements they are making to fire systems, dust mitigation and various environmental projects. He said that Mt Isa was undertaking a study on the benefits of copper smelting compared with shipping concentrate.

Sharon Marks asked about new commodities coming into the Port as per the last CLG meeting. Ranee said a number of new projects are still being investigated with some delays to the proponents completing their feasibility studies. Sharon thanked the Port for the recent tour she was on with Conservation Volunteers and Landcare. They are looking at planting trees following the recent rains and funding from Aurizon.

Keith Nobel spoke about Reef Credits and will provide an update next time to the CLG.

Vern Veitch spoke about a presentation he attended from AIMS and JCU, about minimising coral impacts through cloud brightening and improving the genetics to make them more resistant.

Ken Dunlop from Sun Metals expressed concerns about impacts from COVID-19 on his company. He also mentioned an agreement to reuse recycled wastewater to help offset water use. Sun Metals', sister company TML is also doing well with containers with their new crane.

Kim spoke about the recent Port tours with Townsville Catholic Education Office, Conservation Volunteers Australia and a team from Southern Cross Austereo.

Ranee asked if anyone has any topic of interest for the next meeting to let the Port know.

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Tour: Channel Upgrade site

Meeting closed at approximately – 6:30pm