

# Cairns Shipping Development Project

*An unprecedented development for Cairns and Far North Queensland*

Ports North has now completed the dredging component of the Cairns Shipping Development Project with excellent environmental outcomes.

- Target depths and dimensions achieved
- No exceedances of surface water quality limits
- No impacts to groundwater
- No dredging related impacts to coral and seagrass
- No incidents of marine or terrestrial fauna interaction

Ports North's performance in achieving these outcomes have been formally recognised by the independent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of scientific and engineering experts overseeing the environmental management of the Project. Feedback from regulatory Agencies has also been complimentary of the environmental management and project outcomes.

“The TAG would like to congratulate Ports North, the various contractors and project team on the outstanding environmental result associated with the successful delivery of a highly complex and challenging capital dredging campaign.”



The capital dredging campaign achieved the required channel and swing-basin expansions with the removal of approximately 800,000 cubic metres of material from the main shipping channel and inner harbour placing it on land at the Northern Sands and Tingira Street placement sites.

**A complex program that has been delivered within all environmental guidelines and within the range of the predictions made in the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**

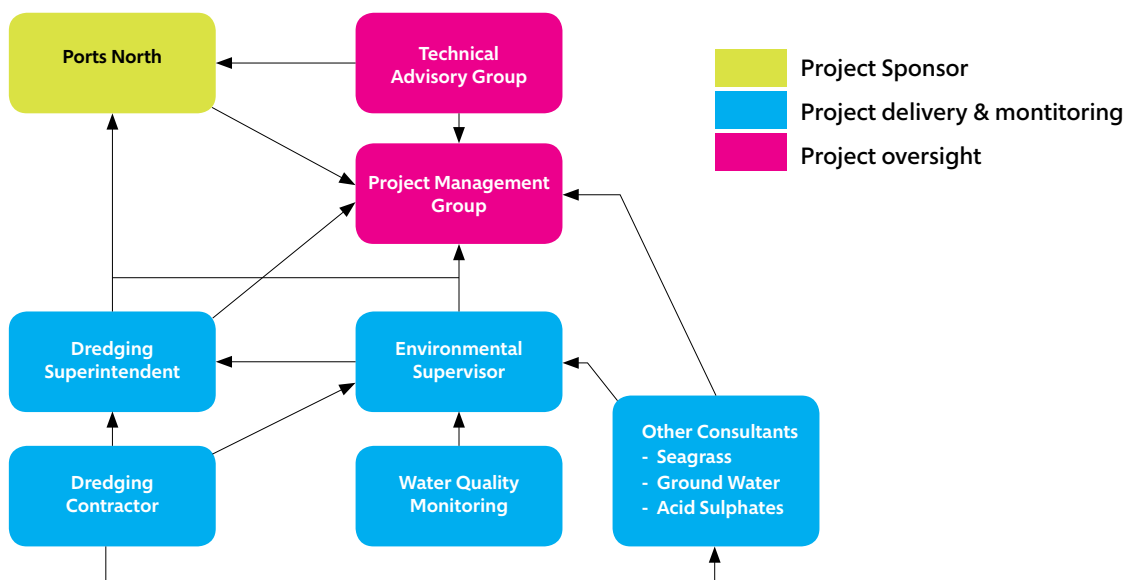
The Project builds upon the significant existing tourism infrastructure network in Cairns to facilitate increased tourism opportunities in Far North Queensland and supports the overall growth of the cruise ship sector in Queensland.

With a forecast demand of 150 cruise ships through the Port of Cairns annually by 2031, the Project is estimated to deliver \$849 million in economic benefits to the region and more than 2,700 ongoing jobs by 2031.



## Environmental Approval Condition Compliance

Environmental Approval (EA) compliance was the responsibility of all parties involved in the project and involved compliance supervision at a number of levels.



The data collected during the dredge campaign indicates –

- Dredging achieved the target depths and dimensions with the total volume of dredging being within the upper limits imposed by the State and Commonwealth Environmental Approvals
- No exceedances of surface water quality limits (turbidity and sunlight penetration) set for dredging activity throughout the dredging campaign
- The areas of potential ecological influence were similar (and slightly reduced) to those predicted in the EIS, based on plume measurement validation and re-modelling results
- Coral and seagrass assessments taken prior to and post-dredging show that predicted EIS outcomes have been validated, with no dredging related impacts recorded on these sensitive receptors
- Groundwater monitoring has demonstrated that no significant impacts to groundwater environmental values beyond the boundary of the site were experienced
- Tailwater discharge managed so that no adverse impacts upstream or downstream of discharge have been identified
- No incidents of marine or terrestrial fauna interaction with dredge and other construction equipment were recorded

## Monitoring

Monitoring that was undertaken prior to, during and post-dredging includes:

- Coral and seagrass monitoring
- Continuous marine water quality and light monitoring (with real time data access and recordings) of dredge plume extent, duration and zone of influence
- Marine megafauna observations
- Groundwater monitoring (water level, electric conductivity, major ions, pH) at 16 locations surrounding the Northern Sands placement site
- Noise monitoring to validate predicted noise impacts
- Acid sulfate soil validation monitoring of placed dredge material
- Hydrographic surveys prior to and after dredging completion





## Wharf Upgrade

The last phase of the Project is well underway with Austral Construction undertaking the \$20 million wharf upgrade to accommodate the larger vessels that will now be berthing in the Port of Cairns.

An innovative design will see new independent berthing dolphins installed along the length of wharves 1-6 to take the mooring and berthing loads imposed by the larger ships thereby helping to preserve the existing heritage listed wharves.

A new concrete jetty will be constructed along the front of wharf 6 to replace the old structure with a portion of the old structure to be retained for interpretive purposes. The upgrade will see a total of 77 large steel piles driven to support the structures of which 65 have been completed to date.

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***The project outcomes clearly demonstrate the ability of Ports North to undertake major capital projects including capital dredging works to deliver economic benefits while protecting the environment.***

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We will continue to keep the community informed through regular updates on the Project's progress. You can also follow us on:



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