

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday 3 August 2022, 5pm – 6.30pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Chair: Raneë Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Raneë Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Jason Mahlberg	Senior Project Director, Channel Upgrade Project, Port of Townsville (presenting)
3	Helaina Bannister	Acting Trade Development Lead, Port of Townsville (presenting)
4	Jake Hammelswang	Executive Officer, Dry Tropics Partnerships for Healthy Waters (presenting)
5	Sarah Mathiesen	Acting Manager Corporate Affairs, Port of Townsville (presenting + minutes)
6	Elaine Glen	Acting Manager Environment and Planning
7	Jessica Johnston	Corporate Affairs and Capital Works PR Officer, Port of Townsville
8	Sharon Marks	Ausfield Services
9	Keith Noble	Community Rep
10	Brittany Butler	Community Rep
11	Rick Vernon	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association
12	Leslie Sampson	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
13	Holly Lambert	QF8 Volunteer Coastguard
14	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
15	Brenton Creed	Community Rep
16	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep

Apologies

1	Craig Knight	Community Rep
2	Norman Rains	Townsville Birdlife
3	Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee (via Teams)
5	Emily Blumson	Community Rep (via Teams)

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

- ACTION:** Port to share links to 2021 Report Card and Seagrass StoryMaps (COMPLETE)
- ACTION:** Port to invite CLG members to test the new CUP dashboards when they come online (COMPLETE)
- ACTION:** Port of Townsville to confirm indigenous employment numbers for the CUP (COMPLETE)
- ACTION:** Port to share link to register for Port Tours (COMPLETE)

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

- ACTION:** Port of Townsville to invite CLG members to see the Woomera. (TBC)
- ACTION:** Arrange an outing on the Osprey once COVID-19 restrictions allow. (TBC)
- ACTION:** Port to present 30-year outlook plan to CLG at a future meeting.

ACTION: Arrange a future CLG presentation about climate change action being taken by the transport and freight industries. (Planned for NOV)

ACTION: Share the Alternate DMPA report with the CLG once it is completed.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneé Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 33rd meeting at 5.04pm.

The CLG was informed that Kim Wheatley and Maria James have both resigned from the Port of Townsville and that community representative Ian Ferguson has resigned from the CLG.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (4 May 2022)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February were adopted without change.

All actions have been completed or were addressed during the meeting. Some outstanding actions will be covered as part of the agenda for future meetings when relevant updates are available.

3. Trade Update, Helaina Bannister, Acting Trade Development Lead

Helaina presented preliminary trade figures for the 2021-22 Financial Year.

As end of financial year figures are still being formalised and the Annual Report due to be adopted until late September, these figures have not been recorded in the Minutes of this meeting, but will be circulated once audited financial statements and annual report are tabled.

4. Annual Report Card, Jake Hammelswang, Executive Officer, Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters

The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters (DTPHW) produces one of five annual Report Cards that feed into initiatives around the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

The 2021 Report Card was launched on 21 July 2022 with an event for Partners and stakeholders. The launch has been supported by advertising in the Townsville Bulletin, two digital billboards, an email campaign and content on DTPHW's social media channels.

Key Findings captured in the 2021 Report Card include:

The Good

- Overall water quality for the region was 'good' to 'very good',
- Seagrass has recovered from the 2019 monsoon event, with new expansion into deeper margins
- 3 new species of fish were discovered in the Black Freshwater Basin

The Not So Good

- Bohle River had a high level of nutrients
- Althaus Creek featured high turbidity levels
- Black River featured high nutrients
- Louisa Creek featured high phosphorous

Along with this year's Report Card, DTPHW also released a StoryMap that tells the story of seagrasses in Cleveland Bay.

Upcoming projects for the DTPHW include the implementation of a new Data Information Management System, publications of a Management Response Report and Urban Water Stewardship Report, and more StoryMaps / Special Reports detailing Megafauna of Cleveland Bay, Hydrology of the Bay, Climate Trends of the NQ Region and a Burdekin River Overview.

ACTION:

- Port to share links to 2021 Report Card and Seagrass StoryMaps (COMPLETE)

5. Channel Upgrade project update, Jason Mahlberg, Senior Project Director

Capital dredging to widen the Port of Townsville's shipping channel commenced on 15 March 2022.

Prior to channel widening, a Temporary Unloading Facility (TUF) was constructed on the western wall of the reclamation area. Dredging of an access channel to the TUF was completed on 11 March 2022.

To date, approximately 650,000 cubic metres (~20%) has been dredged from the channel. Contractors are on track to finish dredging around April 2024.

Woomera operates 24hrs/day, 7 days/week, weather permitting. Presently, contractors are averaging four barges per day, with each barge being loaded with approximately 2,000 cubic metres of material. In these early stages, the dredge is targeting the stiffer material in the channel to aid in lining the rock wall.

Trafficability on the reclaim is difficult in the early stages as vehicles work from the outside in. This will improve as the project progresses.

Associated works:

A three-stage project to relocate previous Aids to Navigation is underway, with select Aids already removed and six new ones installed. Two new Leads will be installed later in the project.

Marine Fauna Observations

Marine Fauna Observations (MFOs) are being conducted on all vessels with 127 individuals observed to date. Dredging typically attracts mega-fauna for feeding as nutrients are stirred up during works.

The annual dolphin survey was recently conducted for the Port's Inshore Dolphin Monitoring Program, with researchers confident that dolphin populations and behaviour were not being impacted by Channel Upgrade works.

Dive monitoring is also being conducted for corals to regularly record visual differences in coral health. Corals are showing early signs of recovery from recent bleaching events.

Trigger levels

The Port is being held to account on a number of marine health indicators via trigger levels set by the Independent Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC). Turbidity in Cleveland Bay is of particular importance. Once light drops to a certain level, normally due to natural conditions in the bay, the dredging operations go into “Management Mode” to limit further turbidity. All instances of trigger warnings to date have been due to natural events and in all cases, members of the ITAC are consulted daily to determine whether there is any possibility of dredge-related impacts.

Public dashboards

The Port is seeking to aid public visibility of the data collected with the launch of new public dashboards. The dashboards will publicly display turbidity, light and water temperature from six monitoring sites around Cleveland Bay. Members of the CLG will be invited to help test the initial dashboards.

Maintenance Dredging

There will be some operational overlap between maintenance and capital dredging when the TSHD Brisbane arrives for routine maintenance dredging in September.

The Port of Townsville, the Port of Brisbane and Hall Contracting are working together to manage environmental impacts by keeping the two dredges well separated, as the presence of TSHD Brisbane raises the possibility of increasing turbidity levels.

DISCUSSION:

How is the boating community reacting to and respecting Woomera and its support vessels?

Recreational boaties had been one of the unknown safety risk factors for the project, but they have reacted surprisingly well and kept clear of the dredge. The Port had conducted a high level of community engagement immediately prior to dredge commencement with a range of recreational users of the Bay and this seems to have worked well.

Has the weather impacted dredging operation?

To date, approximately eight days have been lost poor weather, with the biggest impedance coming from unseasonal rain. While Woomera can operate in swells up to one metre, rainfall reduces trafficability on the reclamation area and most delays have resulted from that.

How many Traditional Owners are employed on the project?

The number of indigenous people currently employed by the project is approximately 26, overall total project numbers and targets will be circulated. The Port is looking to increase indigenous employment as a whole, including looking into Indigenous Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

ACTION:

- Port to invite CLG members to test the new CUP dashboards when they come online. (COMPLETE)
- Port of Townsville to confirm indigenous employment numbers for the CUP. (COMPLETE)

6. Community Update – Sarah Mathiesen, Port of Townsville

COMMUNITY FUND

The 2022 Community Fund received 33 applications, requesting more than \$200,000 in financial assistance, as well as in-kind support. To date, the Port has awarded funding to 15 projects. There remains approximately \$8,500 still to be awarded. The Acting Manager Corporate Affairs will reach out to the projects next on the list of rankings, and the panel will reconvene to agree on final expenditure of these funds.

The recipients to date are:

Organisation	Item/s Funded
27 th Light Horse Regiment	Participant of one Australia Defence Force Veteran in the Regiment.
ABIS Community Cooperative Society Limited	Transport for 25 young Torres Strait Islander people to revive, restore and record traditional dance at the Winds of Zenadath Festival.
Burdekin Trailable Yacht Club	Replacement of gas stove in the Club House.
Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare	Tools for six Landcare sites and the Bush Garden Nursery.
Dad's Group	Peer-to-peer community support for "Dads of Townsville".
Estates Soccer Club	Soccer equipment for women's and junior teams.
Magnetic Island Network for Turtles	New rehabilitation tank, tank covers and sand filter.
Northern Beef Producers Inc	Support for the 2023 Northern Beef Producers Expo.
The Townsville Toy Library	Five playroom climbers.
The Willows Primary P&C Association	Five classroom laptops for students who can not afford them.
Townsville Motor Boat and Yacht Club	Shuttle Buses at the Magnetic Island Race Week Community Day.
Townsville Outrigger Canoe Club	Support for the 2023 annual regatta.
Townsville Sailing Club	Smart Board for refurbished Club House.
Townsville State High School	Didgeridoos, clapsticks and tuition for First Nations Arts Project.
Survivors of Suicide Bereavement Support Association	Marquee and flags for community engagement activities.

ENGAGING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

The Port of Townsville recently invited local indigenous artists to submit examples of their work to be considered for future commissions for Port projects.

The Port received nine artists applications through a campaign which was run across social media, direct emails, radio advertising on 4K1G and newspaper ads in the Townsville Bulletin, North West Star, Wet Tropic Times and Burdekin Local News.

The Port is now compiling a list of short-term projects and their scope to issue to applicants so they may quote on specific projects. Artwork for the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is high on the

agenda. Other projects being explored included extensions on the Port's existing brand for use on uniforms, signage, communications collateral, as well as public artwork, office wall hangings and merchandise/corporate gifts.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Port's annual Community Survey is due to close at midnight, 3 August. To date, 158 responses have been received, which is an increase on last year.

Members of the Port team recently held a Combined Schools Tree Planting Day at Lucinda Port to mark National Tree Day. Prep to Year 6 students from Trebonne, Macknade and Halifax State Schools – a combined student body of 25 – attended the session and planted 130 trees. They also completed a Leaf Detective activity with a Port Environment Officer. The event was very well-received by students, teachers, Port staff and staff Hinchinbrook Shire Council who also attended on the day and assisted by supplying trees and pre-digging holes.

Port staff observed NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week with special events. An All Staff Lunch recognising NAIDOC Week, Queensland Day and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was held in Environment Park. Guest speakers Alex Gertz and Matty Bowen from On Common Country who spoke about their partnership with the Port and pathways to Indigenous training and employment. At the NAIDOC Week Breakfast, one of the Port's engineers addressed shared his story of being born on Thursday Island and his family's history in North Queensland. Rob has been part of the Port team for more than 15 years and said support and career opportunities like those he receives are a vital first step toward Reconciliation.

The Mission to Seafarers eCommerce store is now live. The development of the store was funded by the 2021 Community Fund and project managed by a member of the Port's Corporate Affairs team.

Port Tours have been very popular, with 10 tours delivered in the past 12 weeks. Tour groups have included secondary schools, study-abroad groups from the USA, Government stakeholders and elderly citizens on day respite visits.

The Port is now preparing for the Australian Cruise Association Conference on 7-9 September, and the return of cruising in December.

ACTION:

- Port to share link to register for Port Tours (COMPLETE)

7. Port Updates

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

The Port is working with Townsville City Council and waterfront owners to ensure coordinated and integrated planning of new projects in this important precinct. The Port is investigating the construction of a new ferry terminal (as the previous Market Led Proposal was withdrawn). The Port is continuing to explore options for the land alongside ReefHQ once their work is complete, and

discussions with GBRMPA, Townsville City Council and the Museum of Tropical Queensland are underway to ensure an integrated process. A superyacht marina is also proposed in front of The Ville and the Port is working with The Ville owner to investigate.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Hydrogen and Defence investigations are ongoing.

Sun Metals and Ark Energy plan to open their publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling station at Stuart next year, with their own hydrogen-powered trucks travelling between their refinery and the Port. A number of other parties are also investigating hydrogen fuelled transport options.

8. Around the Table & General Business

Holly Lambert relayed thanks from QF8 Townsville Volunteer Coastguard to the Port's Duty Officers for relaying radio messages during recent search and rescue efforts. The Coastguard would be happy to provide a meeting space should the Port require an alternate meeting room in future.

Meeting closed at 6.29pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for 2 November 2022.