

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday 1 February 2023, 5pm – 6.30pm
Venue: Port of Townsville Board Room / Microsoft Teams
Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Mark McNeil	General Manager Assets and Environment (presenting)
3	Dave McLoughlin	General Manager Major Projects
4	Sarah Mathiesen	Acting Manager Corporate Affairs, Port of Townsville (minutes)
5	Elaine Glen	Acting Manager Environment and Planning (presenting)
6	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development (presenting)
7	Norm Rains	Townsville Birdlife
8	Keith Noble	Community Rep
9	Sharon Marks	Ausfield Services
10	Holly Lambert	QF8 Volunteer Coast Guard
11	Brittany Butler	Community Rep
12	Aniko Papp	MICDA rep

Apologies

1	Emily Blumson	Community Rep
2	Craig Knight	Community Rep
3	Paul Crocombe	Community Rep
4	Leslie Sampson	Community Rep
5	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
6	Brenton Creed	Community Rep
7	Rick Vernon	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
8	Adam Smith	Community Rep
9	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep
10	John Cordingley	Glencore

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

- ACTION:** Update on the Seaweed Institute of Australia's trial to be provided at AUG or NOV meeting.
- ACTION:** Share link to TACC nominations with CLG.
- ACTION:** Remind CLG members of call for a representative to sit on the 2023 Community Fund panel.
- ACTION:** Notify CLG of the final outcomes of the Community Tree Planting Program.
- ACTION:** Include the next PechaKucha event in PORTal.

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

ACTION: Port of Townsville to invite CLG members to see the Woomera.

ACTION: Arrange an outing on the Osprey once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

ACTION: Port to present 30-year outlook plan to CLG at a future meeting.

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

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 35th meeting at 5.01pm.

The Chair acknowledged Dr Adam Smith's Environmental Excellence and Sustainability Award, which was presented at Townsville City Council's Australia Day Awards. Adam was nominated for his outstanding contribution to research and conservation initiatives in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. He is recognised for his countless hours of volunteering and leading community education initiatives around the Great Barrier Reef.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting have not been issued as they were awaiting approval by guest speaker Danita McMurray. The Port will extract the minutes of that Danita's presentation and circulate the remaining minutes to the CLG.

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. Quarter 2 Trade Update, Scott Croll, Manager Business Development.

Scott introduced himself to the CLG. He grew up in Townsville and has lived here several times over the past years. His most recent role was with an Australian Logistics company in South East Asia.

At the end of Quarter 2, the Port of Townsville's YTD figures down are down 8 per cent or just shy of 350,000 tonnes from last year.

The biggest loss continues to be that of mining and minerals concentrates being sold domestically, rather than imported. Most other commodities remain on par with the previous year.

Regarding exports through Townsville, sugar is up on last year, while minerals and fertilisers have dropped off. The phosphate rock fertiliser projects that are coming online will saturate Australia's domestic market as their output expands and the Port expects to start seeing exports of the surplus fairly quickly.

Container trade is down 22 per cent on the same time last year. The positive news is that starting to see the shipment of more full containers rather than empties - 84 per cent of imported containers are

now full compared with 68 per cent last year. Solar panels are a notable containerised commodity as renewables continue to perform well.

With China's change to policies around COVID, Chinese manufacturers are starting to open up and container prices coming down as a result.

MAJOR PROJECT PIPELINE:

The Port is working with QPM as they progress through their financing and approval processes.

Townsville City Council has started constructing trunk infrastructure at the Lansdown Precinct and QPM will make their final decision in the second half of this calendar year. They're also having to secure their supply of energy, which will be drawn from wind and solar.

Chatham's Rock Sulphate project is another demonstration of the phosphate market ramping up, following Centrex's successful first bulk export in September. The market activity is being driven by the high global price of phosphate.

The Port is currently storing pipes for the Haughton Pipeline, with that project underway.

A number of wind farm projects are in the horizon, with multiple cargo shipments expected to be arriving through the at Port from 2024 to 2027.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

The first shipment of fully traceable, sustainable sugar was shipped to Korea via the Townsville Port in November.

Australia has signed trade agreements to see 85 per cent of tariffs on products into India lifted.

4. Infrastructure Update, Mark McNeil

The Port of Townsville's Assets team is centred around day-to-day maintenance and renewal activities, as well as advanced planning for Port Development.

The Port's assets are broad and include wharves, buildings, breakwaters, seabed, plant and equipment, networks, roads and pavement.

The Assets team looks at community expectations, global megatrends and other influences and funnels those needs into infrastructure projects for the Port. This scope of work includes the existing and future footprint of the Port. The overall intention is to improve our level of service to port customers by optimising and enhancing existing assets and looking at what we need to do in the future.

Current work:

- Port Development Master Plan – The Port is working with consultants on designs presently.
- Engineering and Design of Berths 3 and 4 – the new design will accommodate larger ships by deepening the berth pocket, and interconnecting the Ship-to-Shore crane between the two berths.
- Road upgrades
- An additional Berth 10 dolphin – dolphins are a stand-alone structure that allows for an extension of the mooring from the main berth. The new dolphin will accommodate larger

ships, particularly cruise vessels. Berth 10 is currently suitable for ships up to 270m long, the new dolphin will increase this to 300m.

- Berth 11 Pile Corrosion Protection
- New car laydown area – this project utilises the real estate of a former dredge pond and will free up key strategic land at the site of the current laydown, which is vital for the delivery of pipeline deals.
- Ongoing maintenance and renewal

5. Environment Update, Elaine Glen

The Port of Townsville has developed a Carbon Positive Framework, along with a good understanding of baselines for scopes 1 and 2 emissions.

The Port has engaged Energetics to do a whole-of-port carbon and energy audit. Energetics will look at current emissions, including those generated by the Channel Upgrade project, and guide the Port on how to optimise reductions. The process is expected to take a couple of years to review, validate and implement.

The Port is also about to deploy RightShip (a software program that has a Maritime Emissions Portal), which will provide a better understanding of ship emissions in Port.

With different shipping lines taking up varying renewable fuel options, part of the challenge is forecasting where the Port's efforts are best spent.

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

The Port has a renewable energy plan and is looking at reducing energy usage where it can. The Maintenance team has just rolled out 126 new LED lights as part of this program.

Tropical Energy Systems has been engaged to conduct an energy efficiency audit of Port buildings, including Quayside Terminal, the Administration building and the maintenance shed. The Port is exploring opportunities to transform Quayside Terminal into a green cruise terminal – the flat roof provides great opportunity to install solar panels. High level calculations suggest there is almost enough existing roof space to support the number of solar panels needed to power the Port of Townsville's direct operations.

In time, the Port will also assist tenants to meet their own sustainability goals, however initial work is focusing on the Port's own assets.

The Port recently hosted an intern from JCU's Renewable Energy course, who conducted a lot of work in this space during his time with the Port.

ONE MILLION TREES

The Port's count is currently at 7,123 stems planted.

The One Million Tree program recognises that a tree has more value than its carbon sequestration – it's also about improving biodiversity, supporting pollinators, and increasing shade.

The Port has engaged with the broader community on its One Million Trees program. The team has been working with schools in Townsville and Lucinda and Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare on planting days, and launched the Community Tree Planting Program in late October, which offered successful

applicants up to 1,000 stems to plant on community land. The program received five applications, which are currently under assessment.

ACTION: *Advise the CLG of the outcomes of the Community Tree Planting Program once they have been determined.*

MARINE DEBRIS:

The Port has now funded 31 litter baskets on its land.

The Port is in the process of commissioning a Seabin at Sealink's Townsville terminal. Wave action is causing some challenges with the power supply, which the team is working to overcome.

A total of 13,298 pieces of litter have been collected around Port lands this year to date. The Port is on target to collect 25,000 pieces of litter this year.

ZERO WASTE:

The Port is now recycling its old PPE, including gloves, earplugs and safety glasses through TerraCycle. The Port has also become a collection scheme for Containers for Change, with all funds going to Mission to Seafarers. Collection points have been installed around Port buildings and are made available at relevant events.

REEF 2050 PROJECTS:

The Port has entered a partnership with the Australian Seaweed Institute to trial biofilter pods at Lucinda. The pods will grow seaweed, which will absorb inorganic nitrogen coming out of the Herbert River. In addition to sequestration, researchers are looking at how the seaweed could be harvested for other uses such as stock feed or humus, thereby creating a new circular economy.

The trial will begin in April.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TACC)

The Port has just released membership nominations for its TACC. If you or someone you know would like to join the TACC committee, please take a look at <https://www.townsville-port.com.au/environment/dredging-management/technical-advisory-and-consultative-committee-tacc/>

The TACC meets annually, likely in April this year. Its aim is to give all stakeholders an opportunity to ask questions about maintenance dredging and is a commitment under Reef 2050 Maintenance Dredging strategy. The Port is seeking to get representation from a range of community groups, NGOs, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Committee has been in place for 30 years.

6. Port Updates

WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN

The Port is continuing to work with key stakeholders to masterplan the Port waterfront. Noted media around the aquarium that GBRMPA plan to build a new aquarium rather than upgrade the existing facility. Details are being worked through.

Port anticipates being able to share planning works once waterfront stakeholders have reviewed by May 2023.

ACTION: *Provide updates and concepts at May meeting.*

QNI

Noted media by QNI regarding sale of share interests in QN entities. Any arrangements are subject to usual regulatory approval processes.

CRUISE

The Cruise season is now in full swing. 2023 season has 12 bookings, increasing to 18 in 2024. Anticipating growth beyond this with channel widening completion in 2024.

COMMUNITY FUND:

The Port is preparing to launch its third annual \$50,000 Community Fund. In its first two years the Fund backed 33 projects totalling a combined \$1.9 million worth of projects. The Port is seeking expressions of interest for a community representative from the CLG.

ACTION: *Send reminder to CLG members to nominate for the Community Fund panel, if they're interested.*

ROUND TABLE:

Holly: The Coast Guard has been on water 151 times in the past six months and conducted 21 assists in a single calendar month. The rescues cost approximately \$50,000 in fuel and Coast Guard received about \$3,000 in donations from those it rescued.

There are about 2,000 vessels on the Coast Guard's books, but only about 700-odd trips logged in the past six months. QR codes on boat ramps have helped encourage people to log their trips.

There have been some issues with parking issues at the boat ramp, and volunteers have witnessed some abuse and damage to vehicles. People are creating road blocks in the way they're parking, and faded line-marking is making it difficult for people to determine where they should be.

Some changes in Coast Guard's Registered Training Organisation (RTO) status mean it will no longer offer external training. There is some movement in State Government and volunteer marine rescue, and it looks like Coast Guard may soon come under Search and Rescue for Marine, along with the water police.

Keith: Keith attended the UN Global Biodiversity Convention in Montreal in December 2022.

Biodiversity goes hand in hand with carbon emissions and climate change. You could solve climate change by addressing the biodiversity crisis. At the Conference, almost 200 countries signed a global agreement to see 30 per cent of land and 20 per cent of sea fall under protection by 2030.

PechaKucha's next session will be held on 23 February at the Heritage Exchange.

Keith is very happy to have been appointed as Independent Chair of the Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters (DTPHW). The DTPHW is largely a new team with the recent appointments of Kara-Mae Coulter Atkins as Executive Officer and engagement of Sam Gibbs as Communications Advisor.

The DTPHW team has been getting out and meeting some of the partners in preparation for their first partnership meeting in April.

ACTION: *Include the next PechaKucha event in PORTal.*

Meeting closed at 6.43pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for 3 May 2023.