

## Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 7 February 2024, 5pm – 6.30pm  
**Venue:** Port of Townsville Board Room / Microsoft Teams  
**Chair:** Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

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#### Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Sarah Mathiesen	Corporate Affairs Lead, Port of Townsville (presenting)
3	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville (presenting)
4	David Edelman	A/Manager Asset Management & Planning, Port of Townsville (presenting)
5	Susannah Greenleaf	Manager Strategy and External Affairs, Port of Townsville
6	Keith Noble	Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters
7	Norm Rains	Townsville Birdlife
8	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
9	Anniko Papp	MICDA Rep

#### Apologies

1	Emily Blumson	Community Rep
2	Craig Knight	Community Rep
3	Paul Crocombe	Community Rep
4	Rick Vernon	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
5	Adam Smith	Community Rep
6	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep
7	John Cordingley	Glencore
8	Sharon Marks	Ausfield Services
9	Brenton Creed	Community Rep

#### Actions Summary

##### Actions from this meeting:

- ACTION:** Keith Noble to be included in communication for 2024 Community Fund Panel.
- ACTION:** Anniko to share contact for the Magnetic Island Museum to see what they have in their photo collection.
- ACTION:** Provide further information about Wind Farm Projects at a future CLG meeting.
- ACTION:** Present plans for the Waterfront Development at a future CLG meeting.
- ACTION:** Present plans for the next stages of the Port Expansion Project at a future CLG meeting.

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

**ACTION:** Port of Townsville to invite CLG members to see the Woomera (IN PROGRESS)

**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 (SCHEDULED FOR AUG 2024)

## **1. Welcome/Apologies**

Chair Ranee Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 39th meeting at 5.08pm.

Introduced Susannah Greenleaf, the Port's new Manager Strategy and External Affairs, and David Edleman, A/Manager Asset Management and Planning.

Ranee began by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting, the Wulgurukaba people, and paid respects to Elders both past and present.

Apologies for the meeting were noted.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were tabled at the meeting. Members of the CLG were encouraged to advise the Port if they required any changes.

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. Community Update, Sarah Mathiesen**

Tropical Cyclone Kirrily challenged the Port in January. The impact to Port's public amenity was minimal and included a short closure of Environmental Park for public safety until the Gardening team was able to remove fallen trees and clear paths. Mosquito spraying in the Park has been scheduled and South Townsville residents kept abreast of activities.

The Port's fourth annual \$50,000 Community Fund is now open. This year the Port's Corporate Affairs team will host two online information sessions to help applicants understand the process. Keith Noble volunteered to be the CLG representative on this year's assessment panel.

In 2024 the Port celebrates 160 years since its founding in 1864. Celebrations began with cake-cutting at an All Staff Lunch on 6 February. A number of activities will be rolled out during the year are 160 Year branding across public touchpoints, short ephemeral displays at the Maritime Museum of

Townsville and historical recounts of interesting moments and significant contributions of the Port and its customers. The Port is also looking to develop a series of short form video content or a publication, with the options still being explored. Celebrating the Port's history in these ways is critical to building positive sentiment and public support, particularly as the Port continues its accelerated growth over the coming years.

**ACTION:** Keith Noble to be included in communication for 2024 Community Fund Panel.

**ACTION:** Anniko to share contact for the Magnetic Island Museum to see what they have in their photo collection.

#### 4. YTD Trade Update, Scott Croll

##### **Trade:**

Port of Townsville's total trade for year-to-date (YTD) to the end of January is approximately 300,000 tonnes (7%) ahead of the same time last year.

Among imports, the key drivers are fertiliser imports and mineral concentrates. Fertiliser has bounced back after the industry supplied to the domestic market only last year, while growth in mineral concentrate was due to a recommencement of copper and zinc concentrate imports for processing at local refineries.

Growth in exports of 4.8 per cent was led by an 18.5 per cent increase in sugar, a 57.3 per cent increase in general cargo and a 142.9 per cent increase in live cattle, compared to the same time last year. The increase in general cargo was driven by the addition of phosphate rock in 2021, and an increase in chickpea and sorghum exports.

Containerised cargo increased 30 per cent, with an uptick for both imports and exports. The importation of full containers is slightly down, while exports have increased. This movement is mostly due to relocating containers between ports as needed.

##### **Industry News:**

While we have seen some bad news in recent months around closures of Mount Isa Mines, exploration activities are strong and there has been a lot of positive news about exploration and potential for new mines.

Port of Townsville is going through a discovery phase of ramping up wind turbine projects and will soon begin early works on the East Port area. Port development to facilitate inbound wind farm cargo is progressing well within the timelines required by multiple proponents. Further updates will be provided at a future CLG.

**ACTION:** Provide further information about Wind Farm Projects at a future CLG.

## 5. The Port's \$70m construction pipeline for 2024, David Edelman.

In 2024, the Port will be delivering approximately \$70 million worth of maintenance and construction projects.

### **The HMAS Townsville:**

The Port is currently designing cradles to slip the HMAS Townsville on the old Curtain Bros slipway, where it will become a permanent feature within the Waterfront Development. Initially, the vessel will not be publicly accessible as the site requires remediation work and the construction of surrounding boardwalks and parklands.

### **Quayside Terminal:**

In anticipation of larger cruise ships arriving in January 2025, several works will be conducted at Quayside Terminal and on Berth 10.

- Pacific Marine Group has been contracted to install a fourth mooring dolphin at Berth 10 to allow longer vessels to tie-up.
- The Port is redesigning the existing bus and taxi rank to increase the number of available coach bays from four to 12 and provide more space for taxis and private vehicles. This will assist in more efficient landside passenger movements, with up to 3,000 passengers arriving on some of the larger cruise ships.
- Design has commenced for a ferry pontoon on the Port-side of Ross Creek. When complete the pontoon will enable ferries to pick up passengers directly from the front of Quayside Terminal, thereby optimising cruise visitors' time on Magnetic Island and at the Museum of Underwater Art and reducing vehicle traffic along Lennon Drive and in the bus rank. The pontoon requires some complex approvals and is expected to be complete in the first half of 2025.
- A solar and battery project is also to be completed at Quayside Terminal, which will power the full terminal and Berth 10.
- The Port is in the early stages of planning a new passenger gangway to improve customer experience and accessible tourism.

### **Berth 3 & 4:**

The Port will undertake works to connect the crane rails on Berths 3 and 4 to enable the quay cranes to operate across both berths. This will unlock greater efficiencies and flexibility and allow the Port to service 300 metre long vessels with our newer container crane.

### **Wind Turbine Laydown Area:**

With a lot of wind farm trade in the pipeline, the proponents require significant laydown space for all their cargo to allow them to stage components as it arrives. Presently, blades are about 85m long, and could get up to 100m. The Port will soon commence early works on a 10 hectare laydown area at East Port. Cargo is expected to arrive on Berth 3 and transport to the laydown which will also require some modifications to fencing and lighting towers along Benwell Road.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- The Port will make upgrades to the Berth 10 bulk diesel fuel line, which is utilised mostly by defence vessels for bunkering.

- The Port will conduct a program of works to protect the ageing deck and piles on the Berth 9 sugar wharf. Future works include installing a cathodic protection system on the underside of the wharf.
- Remediation works will be conducted to correct rock slippage on the Berth 6/7 stub. Slippage is caused by tug movements on the adjacent Berth 8.
- Road improvement works will be conducted along Centenary Drive.
- Corrosion protection works will be conducted on Berth 11.

## Port Updates

### ROUND TABLE:

**KEITH:** The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters will present a proposal to expand the Partnership to the Burdekin at an upcoming Management Committee meeting. The Partnership is also anticipating some additional funding to improve its data processing capacity.

**ANNIKO:** MICDA has received a \$600,000 grant from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation for climate change action. MICDA will use the funding for three inter-related projects:

- To commission a renewable energy scoping study to look at a battery array, which we hope will form an application for a micro-grid battery in one of the Bays.
- For consulting with zero-waste expert Ann Prince who will work with Magnetic Island and Townsville City Council to remove waste to landfill across the Island; and
- To employ a fulltime coordinator and two part-time positions to work one-on-one with Island businesses wanting to transition to 100% renewable power and zero waste over the next 18 months.

**LEON:** Enquired about the status of the ferry terminal and any plans the Port has for the waterfront.

**NORM:** Environmental Park is looking good with all the plants and shrubs planted by BirdLife members.

**SARAH:** The Port plans to host a CLG meeting on Magnetic Island in August, as it aligns best with the Island-specific updates we are working on.

**ACTION:** Present plans for the Waterfront Development at a future CLG meeting.

**ACTION:** Present plans for the next stages of the Port Expansion Project at a future CLG meeting.

**Meeting closed at 6.40pm**

**Next CLG Meeting scheduled for 1 May 2024.**