

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1 May 2024, 5pm – 6.30pm
Venue: Port of Townsville Board Room / Microsoft Teams
Chair: Raneë Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Raneë Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Jessica Johnston	Corporate Affairs Lead, Port of Townsville (presenting)
3	Simon Talbot	Abel Energy Director (presenting via Teams)
4	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville (presenting)
5	Jason Mahlberg	Channel Upgrade Project Manager, Port of Townsville (presenting)
6	Mark McNeil	General Manager, Assets Planning and Environment, Port of Townsville
7	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukaba TO
8	Norm Rains	Townsville Birdlife
9	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
10	Sharon Marks	Ausfield Services
11	Aniko 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	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

ACTION: Aniko to circulate letter via email to Port for further action. (Port's response to MAMI letter attached in Appendix B).

ACTION: Port to organise next CLG meeting to be held at Magnetic Island

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

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)

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.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 40th meeting at 5.08pm.

Raneë 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.

Introductions to Port staff and Abel Energy Director Simon Talbot via teams.

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. Abel Energy MoU with Port of Townsville, Simon Talbot, Abel Energy Director

Townsville has great ingredients for the export of the fuel of the future, green methanol, a fossil free fuel which can be produced using sugar tops and traps. Production capacity of 300,000 + tonnes per annum of green methanol, which is equivalent of removing every vehicle north of Mackay off the road in terms of carbon.

North Queensland is ideally suited to green hydrogen and methanol production with surplus renewable solar, wind and biomass resource capacity.

Project benefits:

- 1.7 + billion infrastructure investment.
- Queensland's agricultural sector provides an abundant source of unutilised biocarbon in waste residue streams, including sugar tops, bamboo etc.
- Regional impact of more than \$4 billion
- It is sustainable, we can be globally competitive on the export market
- Domestic uptake expected, been in discussions with GBRMPA cruise lines etc.

Shipping transition is underway, potential for Townsville to be a bunkering facility alongside Singapore, Shanghai, Rotterdam and Melbourne.

4. YTD Trade Update, Scott Croll

Trade:

Port of Townsville's total trade for year-to-date (YTD) to the end of March is approximately 375,984 tonnes (7.1%) ahead of the same time last year.

Among imports, the key driver is mineral concentrates which is up 169,000 tonnes due to shortage of domestic copper feedstock for refinery/smelter. Fertiliser imports are up 43,400 tonnes, including a 53.6% increase in Gran-Am, which is a new product.

Growth in exports of 5.6 per cent (total 206,908 tonnes) was led by a 27 per cent increase in sugar which is up 359,161 tonnes to the same time last year. This is due to favourable nearby future contracts encouraging earlier than usual sales, and we're on track for our best year on record. A big part of that is the Free Trade Agreement with the UK. General cargo is up 41,300 tonnes (27%) with phosphate rock exports doubling and new export markets opening up in New Zealand and Taiwan. Live cattle is up 70,440 head with pre-Ramadan ramping up exports to Indonesia and following a seven week permit hiatus lifting in February. Exports to Indonesia increased by 58 per cent and Vietnam exports doubled.

Containerised cargo increased 23 per cent, with an uptick for both imports and exports. A lot of empty containers came from PNG for relocation to take metal products.

Industry News:

The agreement with ABEL energy is really positive and we're excited about the prospects around that. We're looking at bunkering facilities and the potential to be a home base for cruise lines. There's the potential to supply into Singapore.

5. Channel Upgrade project, Jason Mahlberg.

Dredging is complete as of 27 March, 2024 with 3.4 million cubic metres of material removed from the channel marking the end of the marine component of the project. It was a slow and laborious process. Duration of dredging was 743 days, with 2572 barge loads back to the TUF and 680,600 hours worked.

There is still a pond in the reclamation as bulking was not as much as expected, this will be filled in future dredging projects. Reclamation final profiling is underway and rock haulage has commenced for rear crest scour protection. We require a significant amount of rock, about 14,000 tonne.

We spotted some critters during dredging, reclamation works, Eastern Breakwater realignment and piling with 985 individuals spotted including 688 dolphins, 267 turtles, 19 whales, 7 crocodiles, 2 dugong and 2 unidentified.

We met with our panel of Independent Experts (Independent Technical Advisory Committee) yesterday for the first time post dredging, who assist with our benchmarks for environmental monitoring. ITAC meetings were held quarterly throughout the dredging campaign, and will now be held six monthly until 12 months after dredging. But while dredging has ceased, monitoring doesn't stop though ITAC was happy to scale back some programs.

Surveys undertaken during dredging show no impact to coral and surveys post Cyclone Kirrily showed no impact to seagrass. Water quality underpins everything in terms of light and turbidity, and while we have low light as some periods ITAC was of the view that was due to natural conditions and stopping or moving the dredge would not prevent that.

5.1 Channel Upgrade project stakeholder engagement, Jessica Johnston.

The Channel Upgrade project was approved during a time of heightened concern about the Great Barrier Reef after the first Outlook Report was published in 2015.

Shifting the sentiment to ensure the community understood the need for Port Expansion to facilitate trade and regional economic growth was essential to the project's success.

Proactively communicating with stakeholders via an abundance of distribution methods throughout each stage of the project, from design to dredging and construction was vital.

In the first four years of construction (March 2020 – February 2024) broad and targeted communications reached an audience of more than 10.3 million. The Port of Townsville's CU project team engaged in 716 separate interactions with primary and secondary stakeholders. We facilitated 47 mainstream media opportunities resulting in at least 191 stories being published. We did 120 social media posts, facilitated quarterly public meetings with the ITAC and had one complaint received.

Port Updates

ROUND TABLE:

ANIKO: Raised concerns about coral health on Magnetic Island and queried the impact of dredging on the reef. Asked if maintenance dredging spoil could be placed in the reclamation pond.

RANEE: The pond is not for maintenance dredge material, we can't place any capital dredge material at sea it must go to land so that will be used for the next stage of capital dredging.

LEON: Asked if the reclamation area walls were equal, noted it looked distorted.

JASON: It's all equal angles, the walls are parallel.

ANIKO: Tabled a letter from Marine Action Magnetic Island via MINCA (see attached email Appendix A) raising concerns from experts and tourism operators on the island about the impact of maintenance dredging on Magnetic Island reefs, particularly in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Kirrily stating 90% of coral at Arthur Bay was destroyed. Coupled with high temperatures and bleaching, the group is concerned about the impact of sediment from dredging. MAMI asked to suspend dredging post extreme weather events and proposed spoil be relocated to give coral a chance to survive. Aniko noted Arthur Bay tourism operators don't visit the bay and mentioned dead turtles washing up on beaches.

MARK: Noted the sea placement issue will be discussed at August meeting, and maintenance dredging is staged to ensure it does not occur during coral spawning.

ACTION: Aniko to circulate letter via email to Port for further action. (Port's response to MAMI letter attached in email Appendix B).

SHARON: Mentioned Greening Australia work with Traditional Owners in conservation.

NORM: Survived his 80th birthday.

Meeting closed at 6.18pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 7 August 2024 at Magnetic Island, location TBA.