

## Townsville Port Community Liaison Group

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 7 August 2024, 2.45pm – 5.00pm  
**Venue:** Peppers Blue on Blue, Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island  
**Chair:** Raneë Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

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#### Attendees

1	Raneë Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Mark McNeil	General Manager, Assets Planning and Environment, Port of Townsville
3	Adam King	Environment Operations Lead, Port of Townsville
4	Elaine Glen	Manager Climate and Environment, Port of Townsville
5	Susannah Greenleaf	Manager Strategy and External Affairs, Port of Townsville
6	Jessica Johnston	Corporate Affairs Lead, Port of Townsville
7	Gabi Boccalatte	Corporate Affairs Officer, Port of Townsville
8	Adam Hinks	Aquascene
9	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic
10	Aniko Papp	MICDA
11	Norm Rains	Birdlife Townsville
12	Leon Kippin	Community rep
13	Heath Hatfield	Community rep
14	Kaspa Blewett	Marine Action Magnetic Island
15	Lawrence Schelle	Marine Action Magnetic Island
16	Natasha Rodwell	Magnetic Island Network for Turtles
17	Peta Semmens	Magnetic Island Network for Turtles
18	Bob Lloyd	Magnetic Island Network for Turtles
19	Neil Randell	Tourism Magnetic Island
20	Cassie Menso	SeaLink
21	Narelle Crawley	SeaLink

#### Apologies

1	Emily Blumson	Community Rep
2	Craig Knight	Community Rep
3	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways
4	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner
5	Sharon Marks	Ausfield Services

#### Actions Summary

##### Actions from this meeting:

**ACTION:** Present the Waterfront plan at next meeting.

**ACTION:** MAMI members to meet with Port's environment team/AIMS to discuss water quality and coral health partnerships.

**ACTION:** Share Adam King's Alternative DMPA presentation with Aniko/MICDA.

##### 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:** 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 41st meeting at 2.52pm.

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 welcome back to Aquascene CLG member Adam Hinks and Reef Ecological CLG member Adam Smith.

## **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.

Previous meeting's minutes accepted.

## **3. Alternate Dredge Material Placement Area, Adam King**

An update on the investigation of alternate Dredge Material Placement Area (DMPA) was presented to the Community Liaison Group (CLG) on Magnetic Island in August, and to the Maintenance Dredging Technical Advisory and Consultative Committee. The Port is currently conducting one-on-one updates with key stakeholders.

Investigations have identified significant constraints related to relocating the current DMPA to a site within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP). However, there are benefits to reconfiguring the existing DMPA within the Port's exclusion zone, allowing for placement of material in deeper waters and reducing the DMPA footprint in shallower waters.

The Port will continue discussions with regulators in relation to reconfiguring the existing DMPA, focusing on the deeper areas in the current approvals.

Refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation for further details.

#### 4. Marine Action Magnetic Island, Kasper Blewett

Kasper provided an overview of Marine Action Magnetic Island's purpose and areas of focus. In the past five years, Magnetic Island has experienced health decline due to three mass coral bleaching events, tropical cyclone Kirrily, and a major flood.

Human-induced climate change has also contributed to the issue, leading to poor water quality and unhealthy coral ecosystems. Factors such as agricultural runoff, toxic waste, increased fishing pressure, and dredging activities contributed to this decline.

Adam King's presentation suggests that maintenance dredging has no direct impact on coral health, but it is important to recognise that all forms of sedimentation can adversely affect coral ecosystems.

The local Magnetic Island community, and visitors, have expressed concerns about water visibility and safety risks associated. Many have inquired about Magnetic Island's murky waters and the state of the coral.

- Kasper provided Yunbenun: World Heritage Magnetic Island booklet, published by MINCA to attendees.

#### 5. Magnetic Island Network for Turtles, Natasha Rodwell

The Magnetic Island Network for Turtles (MINT) is a not-for-profit organisation established by local volunteers dedicated to supporting marine strandings, turtle nesting, rehabilitation, and community education initiatives.

In partnership with the Port, MINT is actively working to protect our reef's turtles. Through this collaboration necropsy data from deceased turtles has provided MINT with valuable insights into the external factors that harm or threaten these marine animals. Recent data has shown fishing as being a more significant threat than originally thought.

MINT's recent Nesting Project was developed to monitor turtle nesting activity and to provide data on water temperature changes. In collaboration with Envite, Townsville City Council, DES Threatened Species and QPWS, MINT is also implementing the Turtle Friendly Coastline Project, which has received a grant from the Great Barrier Reef's Accelerator Program to address erosion issues at Nelly Bay.

As part of this partnership, the Port is supplying MINT with 5000 seedlings and essential resources through October 2025.

#### 6. Tourism Magnetic Island, Neil Randell

This season is set to be Townsville's busiest cruise season yet, with 24 cruise ships scheduled to visit between November 2024 and April 2025 bringing almost 30,000 passengers and 13,500 crew members. This influx presents significant opportunity for increased visitation to Magnetic Island.

Tourism Magnetic Island discussed some of the challenges that exist that will need to be addressed to accommodate growth in tourism visitation to the Island.

Neil noted he believes Magnetic Island benefits more from visiting Defence vessels than cruise.

**ACTION:** Revisit the Port's long-term waterfront plan with relevant stakeholders and present project updates at the next CLG meeting.

## **7. Round table**

Anniko addressed the meeting to request funding for a new order of dive cards, for the Magnetic Island Nature Care Association Inc. No commitments to funding were made by meeting members.

**Meeting closed at 4.58pm**

**Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 6 November 2024 at Port of Townsville.**