

# Townsville Port Community Liaison Group



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 06 August 2025, 5.00pm – 6.30pm  
**Venue:** Boardroom, Port of Townsville  
**Chair:** Matthew Lindsay, A/General Manager Strategy, Finance & Governance, Port of Townsville

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### Attendees

1	Matthew Lindsay	A/General Manager Strategy, Finance & Governance, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville
3	Andrew Jones	Project Manager, Port of Townsville
4	Shakira Sellen	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
5	Gabi Boccalatte	Corporate Affairs Officer, Port of Townsville
6	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways
7	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic
8	Sarah Hodgson	Reef Ecologic
9	Norm Rains	BirdLife Townsville
10	Aniko Papp	MICDA Representative
11	Leon Kippin	Community Representative
12	Heath Hatfield	Community Representative

### Apologies

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Craig Knight	Community Representative
3	Sharon Marks	Greening Australia
4	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukuba Traditional Owner
5	Emily Blumson	Community Representative

### Actions Summary

#### Actions from this meeting:

**ACTION:** Circulate Community Survey results to CLG members.

**ACTION:** Keith to send Gabi additional information on the Great Barrier Reef Economic Zone and Gabi to circulate with attendees.

**ACTION:** Let CLG members know when cruise / tourism forums are happening.

#### Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

**ACTION:** Put feelers out to cruise ship lines to host CLG members aboard a cruise ship at some point next cruise season.

**ACTION:** Potential to have CLG members visit construction sites around the Port.

**ACTION:** Port to present 30-year outlook plan, including plans for next stages of Port Expansion Project, at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Port to present concept designs for Outer Harbour Development plan to CLG at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Port to present changes to decarbonisation and sustainability standards to CLG at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Port to give update on Waterfront Development plan to CLG at a future meeting (late 2025).

## **1. Welcome/Apologies**

Chair Matt Lindsay welcomed members to the CLG's 45<sup>th</sup> meeting at 5.00pm. Matt noted Ranee's apology.

Matt 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 new Port staff were made.

Matt gave a warm welcome to Sarah Hodgson who joined as a guest of Adam Smith and is a JCU intern with Reef Ecologic.

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

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were tabled at the meeting.

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. Chair Update – Matt Lindsay, Port of Townsville**

Matt gave an update on the following topics:

- The recent relocation of HMAS Townsville
- Port of Townsville is a naming right sponsor to the 'Sky Salute' for VP80
- Completion of annual maintenance dredging campaign
- Annual Community BBQ for South Townsville residents being held on 24 August 2025

Matt noted that the Port would be joined by BirdLife Townsville at this year's Community BBQ event to host the unveiling of our new bird signage in the park. He thanked Norm for his cooperation throughout this process.

Suggestions were raised and questions were taken on notice.

## **4. Trade and Development Plans – Scott Croll, Port of Townsville**

Scott provided a YTD trade summary as of end of June 2025.

- Total trade decreased two and a half per cent or 177,222 tonnes. This was due to weather-related disruptions to supply chains and agricultural yields, and operational and market challenges faced by key mineral and agricultural customers.
- Import trade increased one per cent or 22,922 tonnes. Total import was 2.36M tonnes.
- Export trade decreased four per cent or 22,922 tonnes. Total export was 4.63M tonnes.
- TEU decreased four per cent or 2,112 TEU.

Scott noted some good news in the agricultural sector. Grain crops, in particular chickpeas, are growing significantly and Brisbane does not have the shipping ability to cater for this growth. Therefore, alternative

options like shipping chickpeas out of Townsville are being considered. Chickpea crops are growing big around the Richmond area.

## **5. Trade and Development Plans – Group Discussion**

CGL members engaged in an open discussion regarding future trade opportunities and port development plans. Areas covered notably included the CLG's interest in how the Port and the region are positioned for future renewable energy and green fuels.

The trade team outlined a number of proposed new projects in the areas of sustainable aviation fuel, green methanol etc that are in advanced stages of investigation by proponents for Townsville, and the strategic advantages of Townsville to be a hub for these industries.

The group also discussed green shipping lanes and decarbonisation works being considered for maritime fleet.

## **6. Community Fund Update and Community Survey Update – Shakira Sellen, Port of Townsville**

### **Community Fund:**

This year our Community Fund program received 32 applications and more than \$280,000 in funding.

There were 13 successful applicants, including:

- Athletic North Queensland
- Black River Pony and Hack Club Inc
- Cleveland Tennis Club Inc
- Herbert River Cricket Association
- Kirwan State High School
- Lucinda Progress Association
- Magnetic Island Network for Turtles
- Road Safety Education Limited
- Set to Succeed
- Townsville Barramundi Restocking Group
- Townsville Suicide Prevention Network Inc
- Townsville Toy Library
- Townsville Yacht Club

### **Community Survey:**

This year's Community Survey received 104 responses and a 90.59% satisfaction rate overall.

The results indicated a consistent theme of positive sentiment around the Port and its contribution to the local community, economy, and environment.

## 7. Community Fund Update and Community Survey Update – Group Discussion

The CLG members discussed the results, noting there were largely good scores. Sustainability was an area that stood out for more focus. CGL members happy to provide support.

**ACTION: Circulate Community Survey results to CLG members.**

## 8. The Great Barrier Reef Economic Zone – Dr Keith Noble

The Great Barrier Reef Economic Zone is a strategy for regional resilience driven by Dr Keith Noble from Insideout Architects and Jelenko Dragisic from Roadmender, with support from Healthy Waters Partnership Dry Tropics.

Great Barrier Reef Economic Zone aims to integrate financial sustainability with ecological preservation. It is an opportunity to adopt a transformative approach to managing one of the world's most recognised natural assets.

The fundamental challenge is that land and water should be managed as one. Three other core challenges that stand out include:

- Efforts must be coordinated, not isolated,
- Resilience requires structural change, not just more resources, and
- Local and global strategies must align.

There is no official blueprint or 90-day plan in terms of rolling this out. However, we are convinced that Townsville is the place to actualise this concept being a city central to mineral and agricultural wealth.

Townsville has AIMS, GBRMPA, JCU, and a real reef focus with a community that likes to enjoy its environment.

Our 2050 reef plan started in 2003. In 2025, we are almost half-way through a 50-year plan. Significant work has been achieved and investment is being made.

**ACTION: Keith to send Corporate Affairs team additional information on the Great Barrier Reef Economic Zone and Corporate Affairs team to circulate with attendees.**

## 9. General Business and Round Table

**ANIKO** – MICDA received a grant from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to accelerate community climate action projects for Magnetic Island, which in turn creates climate change action for the Great Barrier Reef. We're also bringing back pub talks for community engagement, and beach cleanups.

**NORM** – Suggested to create a map of the Environmental Park with native birds on the back to compliment the unveiling of the bird signs at our Community Barbecue.

**ADAM** – Can we do something similar this with marine life? Perhaps a guide to marine life on Magnetic Island. We now do monthly seminars at Reef Ecologic. It's a good way to engage people and have experts speak about their topics of interest. The Port might be interested in sharing this with their staff?

**SARAH:** Went to the cruise forum yesterday and it was interesting to hear from stakeholders within the cruise industry. Some gaps identified were trips to the reef, which ties into Reef Ecologic's tourism offerings.

**HEATH:** Requested if CGL members can be advised when cruise forums are on.

**ACTION:** Let CLG members know when cruise / tourism forums are happening.

Meeting closed at 6.54pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 5 November 2025.