

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Venue: Boardroom, Port of Townsville
Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Matthew Lindsay	Manager Financial Governance and Planning, Port of Townsville
3	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville
4	Andrew Jones	Project Manager, Port of Townsville
5	Michael O'Reilly	Project Manager, Port of Townsville
6	Jessica Johnston	Corporate Affairs Lead, Port of Townsville
7	Shakira Sellen	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
8	Gabi Boccalatte	Corporate Affairs Officer, Port of Townsville
9	Sharon Marks	Greening Australia
10	Aniko Papp	MICDA (Online via Teams)
11	Norm Rains	Birdlife Townsville
12	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukuba Traditional Owner
13	Heath Hatfield	Community Representative
14	Leon Kippin	Community Representative

Apologies

1	David Sibley	General Manager Strategy, Finance and Governance, Port of Townsville
2	Mark McNeil	General Manager Assets, Planning and Environment, Port of Townsville
3	David McLoughlin	General Manager Project Delivery, Port of Townsville
4	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways
5	Craig Knight	Community Representative
6	Emily Blumson	Community Representative
7	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

- ACTION:** Share clip of Ann Sherry's speech with Aniko, the audio did not work via Teams. **(DONE)**
- ACTION:** Share visuals of HMAS Townsville from the tender document.
- ACTION:** Jess to check in with the Environment Team regarding Environmental Parks bird signage design. **(DONE)**
- ACTION:** Send an email to CLG Members for expressions of interest to sit on Community Fund judging panel and check if Keith would still like to participate. **(DONE)**

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:** Present plans for the next stages of the Port Expansion Project at a future CLG meeting.
- ACTION:** Port to present 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 Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 43rd meeting at 5.04pm.

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 new Port staff were made.

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. Cruise Update – Raneë Crosby, Port of Townsville

The group watched a video of Ann Sherry's speech aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* at the official event for the Port's Channel Upgrade project completion. The channel was officially declared in December 2024, allowing the Port to bring in larger-class cruise ships as part of regular operations.

Ann Sherry, Chair of the Board, spoke at the event. It was a significant occasion given her past role as CEO of Carnival Australia and her involvement in the *Queen Elizabeth's* christening in 2010.

ACTION: Share clip of Ann Sherry's speech with Aniko, the audio did not work via Teams.

This year is set to be record breaking for Port's cruise ship arrivals, including six larger-class vessels.

Passenger feedback has been positive, particularly around Townsville's cleanliness and the welcoming and friendly nature of its residents. Passengers have expressed enthusiasm about returning to Townsville for longer visits.

The group discussed arrangements in place for passenger transport and tours, for the community wanting to see cruise ship arrivals, and the engagement across relevant stakeholders to continue to improve the visitor experience and further grow cruise ship arrivals.

4. HMAS Townsville Update – Andrew Jones, Project Manager

The project involves relocation of HMAS Townsville to the former Curtain Brothers Slipway, making it a future tourist attraction and accessible for refurbishment by Maritime Museum volunteers.

The vessel measures 42m long, 7m wide, and weighs 175 tonnes. It's sharp-like hull design makes it challenging to relocate. Recent project progress:

- The vessel was hauled out of Ross Haven Marine in December for inspection by a marine surveyor.
- Cleaning and repairs were completed.
- A large tow point pipe was installed for slipway retrieval.
- CB Marine is designing the slipway, and contracts for concreting and civil works have been awarded.

The dry-docking process will use the Airbag Retrieval System, where the vessel, placed on a cradle with airbags, will be pulled up the slipway during high tide. The process is expected to take several days and multiple tides. Before towing, all oils, fuel, and water will be removed. Tugboats, a pilot vessel, and police escorts will assist in towing the ship down Ross Creek. The final location is above the storm surge tide level for protection against severe weather events.

Communications regarding the vessel movement and placement will be made ahead of the move.

ACTION: Share visuals of HMAS Townsville from the tender document.

5. East Port Precinct Development – Michael O’Reilly, Project Manager

The Port’s Board and Ministers have approved a multimillion project to develop a hardstand laydown area for staging oversized renewable energy components. This will serve large-scale energy projects in North and North West Queensland.

Key components include:

- Construction of an East Port Connection Road for improved access;
- Upgrading Benwell Road Intersection to accommodate oversized loads;
- Swept Path Assurance construction; and
- Development of a 14ha gravel-paved laydown area.

East Port is a reclaimed area from the 1980s/90s and is well-suited for this function.

The contract for construction of the laydown area and transport connections/upgrades has been awarded to Mendi Constructions, with works to be completed by mid-2026.

Wind blades will be offloaded directly onto trucks and transported to the laydown area. Each ship, carrying up to eight turbines, will berth for 6-12 days.

Townsville’s strategic location and infrastructure make it the best port for these operations in North Queensland.

6. Trade Update – Scott Croll, Manager Business Development

Trade volumes for 2025 are tracking generally as expected, except for sugar, which was impacted by mill challenges and industrial action. On January 21, the last train arrived, reaching 96% of expected sugar volumes. The first six months’ worth of sugar has been exported, and the next 6 months’ worth will depend on the world market. The UK quota has increased from 50,000 tonnes last year, so we expect to see more volume be exported to UK.

Other customers have advised that the recent wet weather is not expected to affect overall volume. However, some customers have reported volume losses due to rail line disruptions.

7. General Business and Round Table

General discussion on several matters took place, including sediment management around the port, blue carbon best practices and restoration, focusing on saltmarsh and mangroves, bird signage for the Port’s Environmental Park, MICDA grant funding from GBRF for the Magnetic Island to Townsville Coastal Stewardship Program.

ACTION: Jess to check in with the Environment Team regarding bird signage design.

The 2025 Port Community Fund will launch in late February or early March, with applications open for 3-4 weeks. Last year, we received 56 applications. Each year we invite a CLG Member to join the judging panel.

Group discussed Keith may already be the member to be on the panel again this year.

ACTION: Send an email to CLG Members for expressions of interest to be on the panel and check if Keith would still like to participate.

Please reach out to the CA Team with any topics for the next or future meetings.

The group extended warmest wishes to Norm Rains for a Happy 81st Birthday.

Meeting closed at 6.29 pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 7 May 2025.