

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group



Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 5-6.30pm
Venue: Boardroom, Port of Townsville
Chair: Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Drew Penny	General Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville
3	Shakira Sellen	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
4	Gabi Boccalatte	Corporate Affairs Officer, Port of Townsville
5	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways
6	Adam Hinks	Aquascene Magnetic Island
7	Norm Rains	BirdLife Townsville
8	Joe Niven	MICDA Vice President
9	Leon Kippin	Community Representative
10	Heath Hatfield	Community Representative
11	Craig Knight	Community Representative
12	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukuba Traditional Owner
13	Sharon Marks	Greening Australia

Apologies

1	Emily Blumson	Community Representative
2	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

ACTION: Upload new TOR to Port of Townsville website.

ACTION: Send presentations including historical archives to Adam Hinks – with reference to Magazine Hill.

ACTION: Confirm where the rock of the Breakwater Marina Rockwall came from – Magazine Hill or Castle Hill?

ACTION: Share trade outlook information with CLG members.

ACTION: Port's Environment team to contact Sharon Marks re Bohle River project.

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 project sites around the Port.

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.

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

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 46th meeting at 5.00pm.

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.

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 – Raneë Crosby, Port of Townsville

The CLG Terms of Reference as circulated have been updated and simplified, and it is intended to encourage membership nominations throughout the year and maintain continuity with an annual review process.

The Updated TOR was accepted with no comments or concerns raised by members. The Port will proceed to publish the new TOR on the Port's website and will report back to the CLG on any future member nominations received.

ACTION: Upload new TOR to Port of Townsville website.

4. Trade Update – Drew Penny, Port of Townsville

Trade Delegation - Japan

General Manager Business Development Drew Penny recently participated in a trade delegation to Japan to present at a Critical Minerals Forum held during the World Expo in Osaka.

The Australian Government, alongside several state governments, hosted a stand at the World Expo in Osaka – an enormous six-month event attracting around 200,000 visitors per day. This is the third World Expo Japan has hosted.

The Forum featured key speakers from Japan and Australia talking about investment and development opportunities in Queensland's critical mineral sector. The Forum also reinforced Japan's

interest in Australia's critical minerals, particularly its level of investment in supporting and developing critical minerals in Queensland and more broadly.

Drew presented on how the Port of Townsville is positioned to support critical minerals growth, particularly for the North West Minerals Province. He also highlighted Townsville's capacity, location advantages, and infrastructure readiness and capabilities to support industry expansion.

Attendees included representatives from Japanese businesses, Trade and Investment Queensland, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Townsville has a long-standing relationship with Japan as it was home to Australia's first Japanese consulate in 1896. The trade relationship has grown significantly. Townsville handles just under 500,000 tonnes of trade with Japan each year.

General Port Trade Updates

In terms of recent trade milestones, we had our first bulk grain export last month with 38,000 tonnes of chickpeas shipped to India and Pakistan in a milestone for the grain and pulse industry. We're expecting more bulk exports, including sorghum, in early 2026. Read more: [Port of Townsville supports milestone chickpea export | Port of Townsville.](#)

Additionally, a new ANL container service, APR2, arrived two weeks ago enabling new coastal shipping opportunities between Brisbane and Townsville. Read more: [Port of Townsville welcomes new fortnightly shipping service | Port of Townsville.](#)

Our current trade growth outlook includes:

- To expand capacity to more than 30 million tonnes of trade by 2030,
- Critical and strategic minerals are projected to account for around 6 million tonnes of this total,
- Growth will continue across containerised trade, mining and agriculture, and
- Continuing to recognise the importance of copper and related industries to Queensland's economy.

5. Major Projects Update – Raneë Crosby, Port of Townsville

Raneë presented an overview of Port projects that are underway or were completed this year, including:

- Berth 11 Pile Encapsulation – Works to extend the service life of the berth structure – scheduled for completion in December.
- Berth 3 / 4 Crane Rail Join – Connecting the crane rail between Berths 3 and 4 to improve cargo-handling capacity by enabling the Berth 4 STS crane to operate across Berth 3 – scheduled for completion in December.
- Enterprise Resource Platform Project – An 18-month project that will provide a contemporary system and easier digital integration across the Port – with first Go-Live scheduled for November and project completion in the current FY.
- HMAS Townsville – Relocating the vessel to its permanent location on Ross Street slipway – project completion scheduled this FY (related walkways and view platforms next FY).

- Channel Upgrade Project – Reached Practical Completion earlier this year.
- East Port Project Cargo Laydown Area – A 14-hectare dedicated laydown pad and road upgrades for the facilitation and safe transportation of wind turbine components and other project cargo – primary laydown and road works scheduled for completion December with some minor ancillary works early 2026.
- Quayside Terminal Upgrades - \$10M investment completed including a new mooring dolphin at Berth 10, installation of solar and battery arrays at Quayside Terminal, upgrades to the transit corridor, and commissioning of the new gangway for safer passenger access on and off the vessel.

The following items were discussed by members:

- Any plans to make Quayside Terminal accessible by boat for local tourism operators – the Port noted that investigations and a business case to construct a pontoon on the creek-side of Quayside Terminal is progressing – timing with required approvals would be in the order of 18 months.
- The history of the construction of the Breakwater Marina Rockwall, in relation to where the rock was sourced from.

ACTION: Circulate to members historical information on Magazine Hill, and also where the rock for the Western Breakwater Rockwall was sourced.

6. 30-Year Outlook – Raneë Crosby, Port of Townsville

Raneë provided a presentation on the context of the Port of Townsville operating environment including commodities currently handled, our capabilities, infrastructure, supply chains and strategic outlook to 2050 including 30 year trade forecasts and port growth plans to support trade growth in the region.

Our supply chain connections allow us to be a primary trade gateway for Northern Australia and the value of exports through here is significant for the country at \$12 billion a year.

The Port's proximity to the State Development Area and Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct offers opportunity and capability.

There are more than \$40B worth of projects underway across the region which require import and export capabilities, which is dependent on the Port's capacity.

The Port has Commonwealth and Queensland EIS approvals in place for the full Port Expansion Project enabling the construction of 6 new outer harbour berths, 150 hectares of new reclamation and channel widening and deepening to facilitate trade growth in line with the region's needs and demands.

ACTION: Share trade outlook information with CLG members.

The committee discussed several items around current and future trades and growth opportunities and projects across the region.

7. Sea Dumping Permit Extension – Raneë Crosby, Port of Townsville

The Port's current sea dumping permit for maintenance dredge material expires on 31 May 2026, with an application to extend this to 31 December 2026. No changes to the total volume are being sought as part of the extension application – rather it is to mitigate any risk that a new permit is not issued to ensure that the 2026 annual maintenance dredging can be planned for with certainty.

The Port is preparing an application for a new 10-year dredge material placement permit which will be submitted in 2026. The Port is currently undertaking technical studies and environmental monitoring required to support this application.

Stakeholder consultation on the proposed new permit application will commence in early 2026, which will include Port staff attending stakeholder engagement sessions on Magnetic Island. We'll also be consulting with the Technical Advisory Consultative Committee and the CLG.

Members discussed a number of items regarding dredging and dredge material placement activities including any changes to maintenance dredging volumes following the channel widening, environmental monitoring programs that are in place, future maintenance dredging services contract arrangements, reviews of possible alternative placement locations and how the community will be consulted through the application process for the new sea placement permit.

8. General Business and Round Table – Group Discussion

KEITH – The Healthy Waters Partnership funding cycle will go through to May 2026. Our hosting with the Port of Townsville will finish at the end of June 2026. We will be putting an Expression of Interest out in the new year – we have some good options. We are keen to explore more corporate partnerships to reduce the exposure to government as major funding providers. JetZero are also very strong members of the partnership, which is great. We've also had members from Magnetic Island and Earth Watch join our project recently.

NORM – Thanks to the Port for the new bird signage. BirdLife members appreciated how they were treated by the Port staff involved and are very grateful.

CRAIG – I'm in the early stages of taking to representatives from World Sailing to understand what they'd want to see here for the Olympics, so we can start planning what it might look like. The decision is still between Townsville and the Whitsundays.

JOE – MICDA obtained a grant from the Department of Climate Change. A \$1M grant over four years for water, coral and fish mapping around Magnetic Island.

SHARON – Continuing to work on Greening Australia's current project in Ingham. Also busy with business development with projects around Townsville. Looking for philanthropic funders to fund local environmental projects with Traditional Owner involvement where \$100,000 can be funded. Sharon is interested in the Port's Bohle River Sediment Reduction Project.

ACTION – Port’s Environment team to contact Sharon Marks re Bohle River project.

SHAKIRA – Community Fund will restart in February 2026. We’ll be looking for members of the CLG to be on the judging panel.

RANEE – We’ll be hosting a stakeholder and community event early next year, to introduce our new board members. Invitations will be sent to CLG members who we hope can join us for the event.

Meeting closed at 6.37pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 4 February 2026.