

# Townsville Port Community Liaison Group



## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 07 May 2025, 5.00pm – 6.30pm  
**Venue:** Boardroom, Port of Townsville  
**Chair:** Ranee Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

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### Attendees

1	Ranee Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Scott Croll	Manager Business Development, Port of Townsville
3	Rhys Davis	Manager Strategy and External Affairs, Port of Townsville
4	Zachary Wager	Enterprise Strategic Planning Lead, Port of Townsville
5	Shakira Sellen	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
6	Gabi Boccalatte	Corporate Affairs Officer, Port of Townsville
7	Petty Officer Gregory Waugh	Operations Manager, Port Services North East
8	Sharon Marks	Greening Australia
9	Heidi Streiner	MICDA representative
10	Norm Rains	Birdlife Townsville
11	Brenton Creed	Wulgurukuba Traditional Owner
12	Heath Hatfield	Community Representative
13	Leon Kippin	Community Representative
14	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways

### 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	Vikki Brown	General Manager People, Technology and Performance, Port of Townsville
5	Drew Penny	General Manager Customer, Operations and Safety, Port of Townsville
6	Matthew Lindsay	Manager Financial Governance and Planning, Port of Townsville
7	Jessica Johnston	Corporate Affairs Lead, Port of Townsville
8	Craig Knight	Community Representative
9	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic
10	Emily Blumson	Community Representative

### Actions Summary

#### Actions from this meeting:

- ACTION:** Share visuals of HMAS Townsville from the tender document.
- ACTION:** Next meeting to present on trade and development plans for PoTL.
- ACTION:** Invite CLG members to the dry-dock event of the HMAS Townsville.

**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:** Confirm HMAS Townsville launch date with Petty Officer Gregory Waugh. He knows quite a few guys who'd love to come down from Cairns for this event.

**ACTION:** Host an unveiling of the BirdLife signs in Environmental Park and invite BirdLife members.

**ACTION:** Keith to present on Healthy Waters Partnership for the Dry Tropics at future CLG meeting.

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

**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 Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 44<sup>th</sup> meeting at 5.07pm.

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.

Raneë gave a warm welcome to Petty Officer Gregory Waugh, Operations Manager from Port Services North East.

## **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**

### **2024/25 Cruise Season Update**

The 2024/25 cruise season was our biggest yet with the arrival of Cunard's Queen Elizabeth, following the successful completion of our channel widening project.

We're expecting the 2025/2026 cruise season to exceed this year's season.

Passenger satisfaction surveys are conducted upon cruise ship departures and this season's surveys showed consistently positive feedback with ratings having averaged between 4.5 and 5 out of 5.

Works are underway across a number of areas of the city deliver the best possible experience for cruise passengers and other tourists. There are strategies in place to continue growing cruise offerings, with an aim to eventually support year-round cruising.

### **HMAS Townsville Launch Update**

The launch of HMAS Townsville has been rescheduled to 23/24 July, with event messaging expected to be published later this month. An invitation will be sent to CLG members to attend.

### **East Port's Project Cargo Laydown Area Update**

Construction is progressing well, due for completion by the end of the calendar year, with the first shipments of wind turbines expected to arrive mid-next year.

### **Waterfront Development Update**

Yael will present a project update later this year.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is in the process of redesigning the aquarium development within its allocated budget, with an expected opening in 2029.

**Action:** Yael to provide project update at a CLG meeting later this year.

**Note:** The previous action to arrange an outing on the Osprey is now closed, as it's operational at Abbot Point. Site visits to the East Port Laydown Area may be a more practical alternative.

#### **Actions:**

- Invite CLG members to the dry-dock event of the HMAS Townsville.
- Put feelers out to cruise ship lines to have CLG members on a cruise ship at some point during the 2025/2026 season.
- Potential to have CLG members visit project construction sites around the Port (e.g. East Port Project Cargo Laydown Area).

## **4. Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 – Petty Officer Gregory Waugh, Port Services North East**

Petty Officer Waugh provided a tentative list of naval vessels scheduled to visit Townsville during this year's Exercise Talisman Sabre, running from 13 July to 4 August 2025. Nine ships are expected in Townsville, including HMAS Brisbane and HMAS Choules, as well as an influx of about 700 to 800 sailors.

No aircraft carriers are scheduled for Townsville. Cairns may see the HMAS Farncomb submarine which could possibly be redirected to Townsville. Gladstone may also divert ships to Townsville, pending confirmation. The exercise will significantly increase traffic at the Port.

#### **Actions:**

- Keep Greg informed on the HMAS Townsville's relocation date, as he has interested contacts in Cairns.
- Share design files for the Ross Street walkway from HATCH at the next CLG meeting.

## 5. Reconciliation Action Plan Launch – Zachary Wager, Port of Townsville

The Port's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and launched in February 2025. Milestone highlights included:

- A First Nations Procurement event,
- An all-staff RAP launch lunch, and
- A ceremony to unveil the commissioned RAP artwork by Robert Paul.

Upcoming RAP-related events:

- **Reconciliation Week Lunch:** 28 May 2025
- **NAIDOC Week:** Sunday 6, to Sunday 13 July 2025

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

Corporate Affairs Advisor Shakira Sellen is leading this year's annual Community Fund.

This year we received 32 applications with an overall request for more than \$230,000. However, only \$50,000 is available.

Shakira thanked Norm for offering his time to be on the judging panel. Norm noted some feedback on ways to simplify the application process for future consideration.

### Key Dates:

- 12 March: Applications opened
- 17 March: Online info sessions
- 14 April: Applications closed
- 15 April – 7 May: Assessment period
- Late May / Early June: Outcome notifications and public announcements

### Actions:

- Improve the Community Fund process (as raised by Norm)
- Provide a full update at the next CLG meeting post successful applicant announcements

## 7. General Business and Round Table

**Leon:** Commended the scale of current and ongoing developments at the Port.

**Sharon:** Greening Australia submitted funding for a "Working on Country" project in the Herbert region. Decision on eligibility for funding is expected by late June/early July.

**Keith:** The Healthy Waters Partnership is expanding. This week's session is at AIMS, with plans to move into the Burdekin next year.

Keith introduced his initiative: "Great Barrier Reef Economics Home" which links reef health to regional economic and community wellbeing. It was well received in Airlie Beach and will be presented at the upcoming Circular Economy Forum at Townsville's Smart Precinct. Townsville is a likely pilot site.

Next Milestone: Healthy Waters Report Card for Dry Tropics is due to be released on 15 July 2025

**Action: Keith to present this initiative at a future CLG meeting.**

Heidi: MICDA will send a letter to the Port about dredge spoil concerns. She also expressed interest in Keith's reef to community economic connection program, particularly its relevance to coral health on Magnetic Island.

## **7.1 Norm's BirdLife Signs**

The Port's Environmental Parks will soon feature bird signage which was created in collaboration with Norm's team at BirdLife Townsville, and the Port's Climate & Environment team. The signs feature approximately 70% of local bird species within the parks. They've been printed and are ready for installation.

Ranee and CA team thanked Norm for his contribution.

**Action: Invite BirdLife members to the unveiling event.**

## **7.2 Keith's Trip to Morocco**

Keith shared images from his recent trip to Morocco.

**Meeting closed at 6.34pm**

**Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 6 August 2025.**