

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group



Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026, 4-5.30pm
Venue: Boardroom, Port of Townsville
Chair: Raneë Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Raneë Crosby	CEO, Port of Townsville (Chair)
2	Katrina Small	General Manager, Strategy, Finance and Governance
3	Ken Veness	A/Manager Corporate Affairs
4	Shakira Sellen	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
5	Kylie Newman	Corporate Affairs Advisor, Port of Townsville
6	Keith Noble	NQ Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waterways
7	Joe Niven	MICDA Vice President
8	Leon Kippin	Community Representative
9	Heath Hatfield	Community Representative
10	Norm Rains	Birdlife Townsville/Community Representative
11	Sharon Marks	Greening Australia

Apologies

1	Adam Smith	Reef Ecologic
2	Emily Blumson	Community Representative
3	Adam Hinks	Aquascene
4	Brenton Creed	Community Representative
5	Craig Knight	Community Representative

Actions Summary

Actions from this meeting:

ACTION: Confirm what Defence vessel was at the Port of Townsville the week of 31 April 2026.

RESPONSE: Confirmation it was the Royal Australian Navy vessel Choules, an amphibious Bay Class landing ship dock (LSD).

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 48th meeting at 4:00pm. 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

Raneë advised the group that Jackie Dalton has started with the Port as General Manager Assets and Environment. She thanked Elaine Glen for her time acting in the role while recruitment took place.

Port Q3 Performance Results & Key Activities

- Trade volumes are currently 6% below the same period last year, largely due to ongoing impacts of the wet season on inland customers. Flooding disrupted rail infrastructure and temporarily affected mining operations in western Queensland.
- Trade activity remains strong, with approximately 600,000 tonnes of cargo handled during the week commencing 4 May, including mineral concentrates and fuel imports.
- Fuel imports continue to increase, supported by strong forward booking volumes.
- The Port's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) program successfully went live, with approximately 30 modules implemented since November 2025.
- The HMAS Townsville precinct project is progressing, with construction contracts awarded for associated footpaths and landscaping works. Construction is expected to commence shortly and continue into next year.
- The Port recorded its largest cruise season to date and is expecting larger cruise vessels when the season resumes in November 2026.
- Collaborative projects with Defence have enabled beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- Environmental initiatives continue, including litter reduction projects, catchment improvement activities in the Bohle catchment, completion of the energy efficiency plan, and greenhouse gas emissions assessments to inform future project prioritisation.

- Workforce initiatives have included diversity, equity and inclusion workshops, leadership development training, and entry-level employment pathways. The Port also continues work on ISO recertification, digital transformation, and cybersecurity improvements.
- The Port reported a period with no reportable injuries, reflecting a positive safety outcome.

Long-Term Maintenance Dredging Program (LTMDP)

- ACCC authorisation for the joint procurement process involving Port of Townsville, Ports North and Gladstone Ports Corporation has been published.
- The procurement process seeks to establish a new maintenance dredging contract for the vessel *Brisbane*.
- Tender documents are expected to be released in the coming weeks, with contract award targeted for August-September, subject to regulatory approvals and Shareholding Minister approval.

Sea Placement Permit Renewal

- Further technical investigations and modelling have delayed submission of the Port's application for renewal of its 10-year sea placement permit.
- The Port now intends to submit its application in August.
- Community consultation sessions are planned for Townsville and Magnetic Island in July, supported by an online StoryMap and formal submission process.
- The permit assessment process is expected to continue through to the end of the year.
- While maintenance dredging is not anticipated during September, approval timing remains important due to potential weather-related dredging requirements.

South Townsville Noise Wall Project

- The Port is progressing plans to construct a noise wall adjacent to Nexus Park and extend noise mitigation measures through the South Townsville port precinct.
- Noise modelling indicates significant reductions in overall port-related noise impacts.
- Tender submissions have closed and are currently being assessed.
- Community consultation will occur before a preferred contractor is appointed and may influence the final design and delivery approach.
- Construction is expected to take approximately three to four months.
- The project will also consider opportunities to improve accessibility and connectivity within the industrial precinct.

5. 2026 Community Fund Update – Shakira Sellen

Shakira provided an update on the 2026 Community Fund program.

- The program received a record 63 applications, compared with 32 applications in 2025.
- Funding requests exceeded \$470,000, while the available funding pool totalled \$50,000.
- Fourteen projects were approved for funding, compared with 13 projects in the previous year.
- Applications were received from across North Queensland, including western communities, the Burdekin and areas north of Townsville.
- Assessment focused on projects delivering long-term community benefits rather than one-off events.

Keith noted the high quality of applications received and acknowledged the effectiveness of the assessment process.

In response to a question regarding assessment criteria, Shakira advised that applications were evaluated against established criteria and weighted scoring aligned with Community Fund priorities.

Katrina added that the judging panel used a formal scoring matrix, with the Executive Leadership Team subsequently reviewing and endorsing the recommended funding recipients.

6. General Business and Round Table Updates

Sharon

- Provided an update on Greening Australia's coastal restoration and Alva Beach clean-up initiatives.

Keith

- Provided an update on Healthy Waterways Partnership funding, noting that Queensland Government funding is expected to continue, although funding levels and duration remain uncertain.
- Advised that the organisation is transitioning to a new host organisation, with four potential hosts currently under consideration.
- A strategic planning meeting will be held in Gladstone to assist future planning and governance arrangements.
- Membership growth continues, particularly among non-government and commercial partners.
- An Expression of Interest process is planned for July, with the transition expected to be completed by the end of September.
- Noted that Adam Shand has departed the organisation.

Heath

- Raised recent announcements regarding fuel refinery infrastructure and queried whether Townsville remained under consideration.

Ranee

- Confirmed that the Queensland Government's EOI process remains open and a number of proponents from Townsville are understood to be making submissions.
- Noted Townsville's strong strategic position for both fuel storage and refining, citing fuel security requirements, population growth, expansion opportunities around existing tank farms, and available port infrastructure.

Norm

- Reported positive ecological observations within the Port Environment Park, including activity of honeyeater species.
- Noted previous reporting of potentially hazardous mushroom growth within the park.
- Provided an update on migratory shorebird monitoring activities at Lucinda and broader national bird count programs.

- Highlighted concerns regarding declining numbers of species such as the Eastern Curlew and noted the value of bird populations as indicators of ecosystem health.

Joe

- Noted continuing community interest on Magnetic Island regarding dredged material management.
- Advised that funding had been secured for remote beach clean-up programs, including activities on Rattlesnake Island.
- A community clean-up initiative supported by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation will involve volunteers collecting, sorting, measuring and recording marine debris.
- Also outlined a citizen science program being undertaken with Healthy Waterways, JCU and UQ involving water quality monitoring, coral and fish surveys, and reef mapping through to 2030.

Sharon

- Congratulated Joe on securing disaster resilience funding and noted comparable coastal clean-up initiatives being undertaken in the region.

Ranee

- Highlighted opportunities for collaboration, noting the Port's interest in supporting litter reduction and catchment health initiatives, including through staff volunteer programs.

Meeting closed at 5pm

Next CLG Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 5 August 2026 at 4pm.