



**PORT**  
**of**  
**TOWNSVILLE**

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LATITUDE 19° 15' S | LONGITUDE 146° 50' E

## Media Release

24 January 2005  
For immediate release

### ***Port Community joins together for Relief Aid Vessel***

The Townsville port community has joined together to help an aid vessel, The *Normandie Express*, on its way to Indonesia with cargo for the relief supplies following the Boxing Day tsunamis.

The vessel, which is on its maiden voyage from its builder in Hobart, is expected to dock in the Port of Townsville on Tuesday, 25 January and depart on Wednesday, 26 January.

Townsville Port Authority has waived all port charges for the vessel and the cargo to be loaded.

Patrick Stevedores, Adsteam Marine who provide tugs, Australian Reef Pilots, and Toll Seacargo have agreed to provide their services free of charge.

On behalf of Maritime Safety Queensland, the Regional Harbour Master (Townsville), Captain John Preston, has also given the vessel exemption from port pilotage fees and normal conservancy dues, which ships pay to contribute to upkeep of port facilities and services.

The Tasmanian Government is paying the fuel bill for the *Normandie Express*, which originated from Hobart.

Tasmanian fast catamaran manufacturer Incat is delivering the new vessel to Europe and offered AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development) and other Non Government Organisations free freight for relief goods to Jakarta.

Townsville will be the last stop in Australia for the vessel, where it will refuel and load the balance of the cargo.

The Townsville Port Authority recently donated \$5000 to Red Cross and is encouraging its employees to support the relief efforts through donations to the Tsunami appeal.

"We're pleased to assist this project and those businesses and communities groups around Townsville who are providing the aid cargo," Townsville Port Authority chief executive, Barry Holden, said.

Transport Minister Paul Lucas congratulated the Authority on its efforts to support relief operations for the disaster in South Asia.

"As a nation we need to join together to help our neighbours in any way we can," he said.

"The efforts of the Townsville Port Authority and the port community show what real teamwork can accomplish and are to be commended."

Member for Townsville and Minister for Child Safety Mike Reynolds said that the Townsville Port Authority and local port businesses had once again demonstrated the great generosity being shown by Queenslanders to the Tsunami victims.

"I am particularly proud to be the local member when I see the international good will such as this being given to our very vulnerable neighbours in South East Asia."

The *Normandie Express* is a type of vessel not normally seen in Townsville. It is a 97-metre long, high-speed catamaran capable of transporting trucks, cars and up to 900 passengers.

**→ Note to chief of staff:**

*For further information, please contact Lesley Giblin, Public Affairs Officer at the Townsville Port Authority on 4781 1551. Mob: 0400 013 622 or email: [lgiblin@townsville-port.com.au](mailto:lgiblin@townsville-port.com.au).*

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