

**PORT** of  
**TOWNSVILLE**

Nexus North Queensland

our  
environment

# environmental management

Townsville Port Authority embraces a responsible and proactive approach to environmental protection by ensuring sustainable environmental management is a core component of our operations and Port development. The Authority has identified environmental performance as a key result area for the organisation and the Port as a whole, and is committed to protecting the environment for a sustainable future.

The Port is subject to a complex regulatory framework. The Authority and Port customers must maintain an awareness and understanding of the diversity of international, national, and state regulations governing both the shipping industry and coastal development activities. At the same time we must also maintain an appreciation of local sensitivities and the significance of the Port to the City and region.

The Port of Townsville is located within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and is situated in the heart of a growing city. Operations and development at the Port of Townsville face a range of social and environmental challenges including:

- residential encroachment;
- changing community perceptions and expectations;
- sensitive marine environments (coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests).

By setting high standards for Port operations and environmental performance, we demonstrate our commitment to the management and protection of our environment. To achieve these high standards and results, environmental management initiatives are incorporated into the overall management of Port operations and are an integral part of Port development considerations.

The Authority is committed to working with the wider Port community to ensure that Port activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner and have minimal impacts on the environment. To this end we actively encourage a truly integrated approach to environmental management and performance.

The management structure for environmental issues at the Port of Townsville has been established such that Port customers and the Authority maintain individual responsibility for the activities they undertake.

Overlying this responsibility, the Authority must also ensure that the Port as a whole is managed, operated, and developed in a sustainable manner. Through a firm scientific framework we are working towards the Port-wide integration of environmental management initiatives.

The benefits of this method of environmental management are:

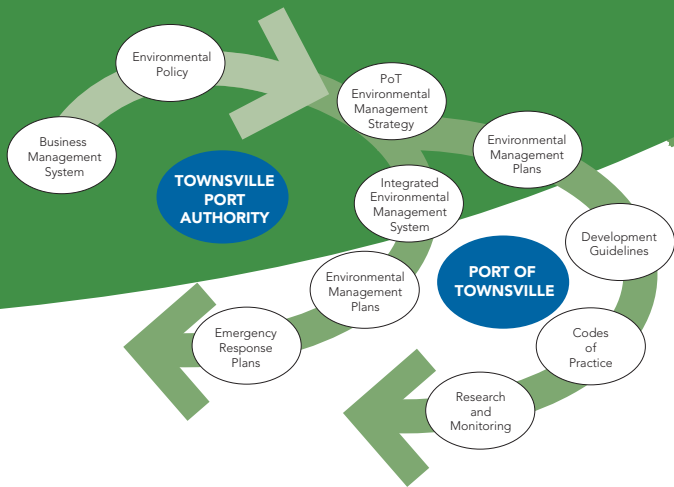
- maintenance of the Port environment;
- no hidden environmental protection cost for new developers;
- the wider Port community retains ownership over the environmental management initiatives;
- assistance is available to the wider Port community to achieve their environmental objectives;
- all environmental management initiatives are practical and cost efficient because they are developed in cooperation with the Port community;
- demonstration of due diligence;
- improved relations between ourselves and Port customers.

The Port-wide Environmental Management Strategy was developed by the wider Port community and identifies key objectives to be achieved with regard to environmental performance throughout the Port. In addition, the Townsville Port Authority has an Integrated Environmental Management System and Environmental Management Plans addressing key environmental aspects of the Port Authority's own operations.

We embrace the challenges of operating a commercial Port against the background of increasing social, environmental and regulatory pressures. Through a proactive, integrated approach to Port management and development we are able to achieve sustainable growth for the benefit of the region.

At a regional level, the Authority is committed to working with relevant management authorities to integrate the environmental management initiatives of the Port with the wider management objectives of the region, adopting an integrated catchment approach to environmental performance.

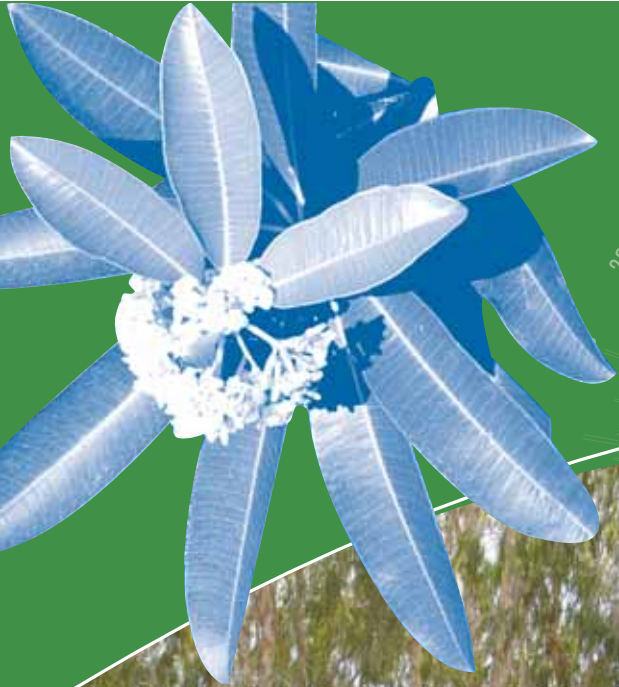
Environmental Management Structure at the Port of Townsville



## emergency response management

Townsville Port Authority maintains a comprehensive environmental incident database that allows us to assess the effectiveness of environmental awareness programs and management initiatives whilst also allowing future management programs to be focused on specific areas of demonstrated need. We work cooperatively with the wider Port community, state, and commonwealth agencies in the development of contingency plans and emergency response procedures. These are actively tested and maintained to ensure a timely and efficient response to environmental emergencies or accidents that may have an environmental impact within Port limits.





## research & monitoring

Environmental performance at the Port of Townsville is the culmination of Port planning, co-operative management and individual initiatives for the long-term sustainable management and development of the Port. Scientifically rigorous research and monitoring programs support these initiatives and ensure minimal detrimental impact on the local and regional environments for the benefit of present and future generations. Townsville Port Authority and Port customers undertake a wide range of research and monitoring programs throughout the Port of Townsville. Routine monitoring throughout the Port includes:-

Air	Assessment of fugitive dust emissions within and adjacent to the Port.
Sediment	Assessment of the effect of Port operations on sediments and the receiving environment. This data is also used for effective dredged material management.
Water	Assessment of the effects of Port operations on the quality of the receiving waters in and around the Port of Townsville.
Noise	Monitoring noise generated by Port-related activities to ensure Port activities are within legislative guidelines and to monitor the effectiveness of noise management initiatives throughout the Port. This data also assists in Port land use planning and development assessment.
Stormwater	Assessment of stormwater discharges within the Port and consideration of the effectiveness of improvements in environmental management at individual sites.
Groundwater	Groundwater monitoring and assessment adds to our understanding of the groundwater flows and quality within the Port area. It ensures that Port activities (past and present) are not adversely impacting the quality of groundwater and the receiving environment.
Trade Waste	Proactive and reactive monitoring of trade waste ensures that wastes discharged to the Port sewerage system from commercial and industrial businesses complies with the sewer admission limits thereby maintaining our ability to recycle waste waters.
Pests	In co-operation with AQIS and other relevant agencies we monitor to ensure introduced species are not able to establish at the Port and to provide advanced warning of an incursion through proactive monitoring and site surveys.

Annual environmental reports are produced for each of the environmental monitoring programs undertaken at the Port. These reports are used to assess the environmental performance of overall Port operations and subsequent management requirements.

In addition to the routine research and monitoring programs undertaken throughout the Port, the Authority has previously undertaken and is actively participating in a variety of research and monitoring initiatives that continuously develop and enhance our understanding of the biological, physical and chemical interactions of the Port environment. Such initiatives include for example:

- benthic fauna surveys;
- chemical uptake path analysis;
- ecotoxicity assessments;
- intertidal marine assessments;
- hydrodynamic modelling;
- geotechnical assessments;
- coral reef monitoring;
- satellite imagery.



## achieving results

Through the development and implementation of a wide range of environmental management initiatives we are able to demonstrate improvements in the total environmental performance of the Port. For example:

- improvements in product handling techniques and the development of innovative product handling initiatives;
- improvement in the overall environmental awareness of the wider Port community;
- greater social awareness of the Port and our environmental performance through the regular distribution of newsletters containing information pertaining to environmental programs, initiatives of the Authority and our customers.

## regional integration

We recognise that environmental protection goes beyond the Port and Port limits and we are committed to promoting the sustainability of the environment and community of the region. To this end we are actively involved in a range of programs and initiatives that promote regional environmental awareness and understanding, including:

- sponsorship of local postgraduate research;
- provision of vacation placement work for local undergraduate students;
- participation in and assistance with community research and monitoring programs;
- participation in local natural resource and community advisory groups;
- fostering practical school education & experiences through Port tours.



## our port community

Our Port community consists of Port customers and neighbouring local residents who take an active interest in the operations and development of the Port and the potential impacts on the surrounding environment. We actively encourage and engage in stakeholder consultations through our co-operative forums such as:

### Port Community Partnerships Forum

The Authority has established a forum through which interested community-based groups can provide comment on Port-related policies, development plans, management programs, and ongoing operations that may impact on specific community interests. The forum also provides an opportunity for the Authority to provide the community with information regarding operations and future development activities at the Port of Townsville. The group meets at least quarterly, or as required, depending on the specific projects or issues that may require discussion. Minutes of our meetings are available on the Authority's website.

### Environmental Working Group

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) is supported and driven by voluntary representatives from Port industry, our commercial clients, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Port of Townsville EWG continues to develop and implement a wide range of environmental management proposals and co-operative programs that raise the profile of environmental issues and management at the Port. The aim of the EWG is to facilitate the continued development and implementation of integrated and co-ordinated environmental management initiatives which ensure the protection and maintenance of the Port environment.



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