



# PORT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORUM MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 November 2007

## 1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

**PRESENT:** Steve McGuire, Ross Island Residents Association  
Rick Vernon, Magnetic Island Ratepayers and Residents Association  
Tanya Thoreau, Magnetic Island Community Development Association  
Roy Shearer, Small Vessel Operator  
Arwen Rickert, Environment and Behaviour Consultants  
Brian Pickup, Sunfish NQ  
Vern Veitch, West End Neighbourhood Watch  
Barry Taylor, Emanate Legal  
Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority  
Lesley McMahon, Townsville Port Authority  
Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority  
Belinda O'Connor, Townsville Port Authority  
Martin Gledhill, Townsville Port Authority

**APOLOGIES:** None recorded

## 2. AGENDA ITEMS

### 2.1 Cyclone Season (Belinda O'Connor, Townsville Port Authority).

Belinda O'Connor reminded members that it is now cyclone season in north Queensland.

Boat owners in Ross Creek and Ross River should now be taking precautions to ensure the safety of their moored vessels. A brochure is available from the Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland on actions to be taken.

Inspections of mooring lines on vessels in the small boat harbours have been undertaken. The majority of vessels' lines are in good condition. Owners of vessels of concern will be contacted by the Authority's officers.

### 2.2 Prawn Farm Remediation (Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority).

Melinda Loudon advised members that the area where the old prawn farm was located is in the process of being handed over to the State Government to form part of the Port Access Road project.

The Authority will remediate acid sulphate soils in the area previously used as a prawn farm. This will come at a substantial cost to the Authority. A consultant has been engaged to produce a proposal regarding the area. Government agencies have been consulted in the development of this proposal.

A routine clean-up of rubbish dumped in the area will be carried out in December. A media release will be issued to increase awareness regarding illegal dumping in the area. This clean up will be coordinated with other agencies with lands in the area resulting in the clean up of a larger area and associated environmental improvements.

Vern Veitch stated that a Sydney City Council employed two investigators to monitor a problem area in Sydney and substantially increased fines. The fines paid for the investigators and resulted in a cleaner area.

Melinda Loudon advised members that signage in the area will be improved and that Townsville City Council is currently looking at stationing an Officer at the entrance gate and the Department of Natural Resources and Water are looking at having an increased presence in the area.

### **2.3 Port Access Road (Arwen Rickert, Environment and Behaviour Consultants).**

Arwen Rickert advised members that Maunsell has been engaged to finalise design and planning works for the Port Access Road and construction is expected to commence in late 2008 or early 2009.

The federal Government has announced a funding contribution of \$95 million capped – which will enable the project to go ahead.

The Stuart by-pass will be completed first and construction for this is planned to commence in mid-2008.

A full-page ad is being prepared for placement in the Townsville Bulletin and public consultation will be carried out next year.

Arwen Rickert advised that no connection is planned between Boundary Street and the Port Access Road.

Vern Veitch stated that the original plans for the Port Access Road included a facility for rail. He enquired if this would be done separately? Barry Holden advised that rail would be constructed at some time in the future, depending on demand.

Vern Veitch enquired whether the commercial marina would be moved and if there would be a new boat ramp in Ross River. Barry Holden advised that the commercial marina would have to be constructed downstream of the proposed bridge.

### **2.4 Port Master Plan and City/Port Plan (Martin Gledhill, Townsville Port Authority).**

Martin Gledhill advised members that the Authority's Master Plan has been completed and approved. It sets out an estimated demand schedule up to 2030 and contains an extensive cargo study which predicts a possible increase to 30 million tonnes per annum. The Master Plan allows the Port to respond quickly to customer and trade demands.

Townsville Port Authority and Townsville City Council have developed a City/Port Plan which is an integrated planning outcome for lands principally along Ross River and Ross Creek.

A Marine Precinct is included in the plan which is scheduled to be opened in 2012. The Authority's commercial marina needs to be downstream from the Port Access Road bridge and thus, this has become a project requiring the Authority's urgent attention.

The Authority has commenced moving forward with an Environmental Impact Statement for the Marine Precinct.

The Initial Advice Statement (IAS) is expected to be released for tender in the next couple of weeks.

Steve McGuire enquired whether the army's new vessels will change the design of the bridge. Barry Holden advised that the bridge height is to be 6 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide as agreed with the Army many years ago.

Arwen Rickert advised that the army has been consulted as part of the project.

Tanya Thoreau mentioned that the Authority has very tight deadlines for the project and are there any measures in place to ensure it will be completed on time? Martin Gledhill stated that these deadlines can be met.

## **2.5 Ocean Terminal (Barry Taylor, Emanate Legal).**

Barry Taylor advised members that Emanate Legal is representing City Pacific – the developers of the Townsville Ocean Terminal project and the Breakwater Cove canal estate.

He gave a brief summary of planning actions to date. He stated that the Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available for public comment in December. He estimated that it will be advertised on the week of 6 December 2007. Technical data and modelling will also be available for public viewing.

Barry Taylor stated that the major impact on local residents will be a potential rise in traffic on Boundary Street. There are three possible traffic routes for trucks to carry rocks to the development. The option that uses Boundary Street will result in an increase of current traffic of less than 20 per cent. It will also involve the construction of a temporary opening bridge in Ross Creek near the end of Archer Street. This part of the construction is estimated to last for one year.

Vern Veitch enquired as to whether the boat ramps in Ross Creek had been taken into account when conducting traffic modelling as it gets congested at the ramps on a good boating day. Barry Taylor advised that it had not – but the trucks would not be running at weekends, only during business hours.

Brian Pickup advised that Sunfish NQ had already brought up the issue with a consultant dealing with the project.

Barry Holden advised that there would be no reduction of spaces at the boat ramp car park during construction.

Steve McGuire advised that there may be issues with the temporary opening bridge in Ross Creek. Barry Taylor replied that it is a matter of effectively utilising the infrastructure.

Brian Pickup enquired whether the Ocean Terminal and Breakwater Cove project is being fast-tracked. Barry Taylor advised that it is a Project of State Significance and has to follow certain requirements. It is not being fast-tracked. He also advised that construction is due to commence in December 2008.

## **2.6 Nexus Business Park (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).**

Barry Holden advised members that the business park is nearing completion and will be officially opened on 17 December.

## **2.7 Small Boat Harbours (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).**

This item has been deferred until the next meeting.

## **2.8 Proposed Environmental Impact Statement (Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority).**

Melinda advised that this item has already been covered by Martin Gledhill in the Port Master Plan and City/Port Plan agenda item.

## **2.9 Dredge Permit (Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority).**

Melinda advised members that the Authority received its dredging permit and that the 2007 maintenance dredging program in the outer harbour and shipping channel has now been completed.

### **2.10 Seagrass Monitoring (Melinda Louden, Townsville Port Authority).**

Melinda Louden advised members that seagrass monitoring is currently being carried out at the Port of Townsville and also in Cleveland Bay. Initial surveys will act as a baseline sample and will mark the beginning of a regular monitoring campaign.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is undertaking the study on behalf of the Authority.

### **2.11 Powerlink excavation along Benwell Road (Melinda Louden, Townsville Port Authority).**

Melinda Louden advised members that Powerlink will carry out excavations for their transmission lines along Benwell Road. This will involve temporary lane closures. This work is due to commence in the near future.

## **3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **3.1 Nexus Business Park Dust (Steve McGuire).**

Steve McGuire advised that residents have a problem with dust blowing off the business park. Barry Holden replied that he has authorised funds to be spent on seeding the area and this will be carried out in the near future.

## **4. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 12 February 2008 at the Townsville Port Authority Administration Building.

## **5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.