



PORT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORUM MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 May 2007

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Steve McGuire, Ross Island Residents Association
Michael Offermans, South Townsville Neighbourhood Watch Committee
Roy Shearer, Small Vessel Operator
Brian Pickup, Sunfish NQ
Vern Veitch, NaREF
Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority
Lesley McMahon, Townsville Port Authority
Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority

APOLOGIES: Arwen Rickert, Environment and Behaviour Consultants
Thea Hiskins, TRAC
Allison Hope, MICDA
Richard Perkins, Urban Quarter Apartments
Ranee Crosby, Townsville Port Authority

2. AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Port of Townsville Environmental Award (Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority).

Melinda Loudon advised members about the launch of a new Port of Townsville Environmental Award.

Operated in conjunction with the Port of Townsville Environmental Working Group, the Environmental Award recognises operators and individuals in the port community who have implemented environmental initiatives and programs that demonstrate a commitment to excellence in environmental management.

The judging panel will comprise two representatives of Townsville Port Authority, one from the Environmental Protection Agency, one from the Port of Townsville Environmental Working Group, and a representative from the Port Community Forum group.

The closing date for entries is 20 July 2007 and winners will be announced in September.

An application form and further information on the Award is located on Townsville Port Authority's website: www.townsville-port.com.au.

2.2 Port Business Park Development Update (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that work on the new Port Business Park has stopped in the short-term due to operational problems with the contractor. The Authority is in the process of employing a new contractor and it is hoped that works will recommence shortly. In the meantime, the ground has been seeded to prevent major dust problems from the site.

2.3 Stormwater drain in the Environmental Park (Melinda Louden, Townsville Port Authority).

Melinda Louden advised members that the Authority received some complaints regarding water in the stormwater drain in the Environmental Park. It has now been cleaned and unblocked, and local residents should not experience any further problems.

2.4 New operator at Berth 10 (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that Perkins Shipping will take over operations of Berth 10 from Patrick Stevedores.

To service its Queensland expansion, Perkins has purchased a 3,500 tonnes, 196 TEU container ship. It will be delivered in July to start a weekly shipping service from Townsville to the Gulf of Carpentaria. This will mean increased trade through the Port of Townsville which will benefit both the port and the local community.

2.5 Feedback Surveys (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that the third-annual customer, employee and community surveys have been conducted and the results are currently being analysed.

2.6 Clean up Australia Day (Melinda Louden, Townsville Port Authority).

Melinda Louden advised members that Clean up Australia Day was held by the Authority in February and a large amount of litter was gathered from the Ross Creek area. A large number of shopping trolleys were pulled out of the creek by Authority employees.

2.7 Export Awards Launch (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that nominations are now open for the 2007 Townsville Region Export Awards.

For the first time, the Export Awards will incorporate the Townsville Business Excellence Awards, which will be run in conjunction with the Townsville Chamber of Commerce.

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner on 31 August at the Southbank Hotel and Convention Centre.

2.8 Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (Vern Veitch).

Vern Veitch presented members with a summary of the Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC) meeting. He stated that the meeting covered topics on the Port Master Plan, Ocean Terminal project, Townsville Port Authority Land Use Plan, environmental research and monitoring, support for James Cook University students, and dredging issues.

2.9 Mooring fees increase (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that the Authority has increased the level of mooring fees in Ross River and Ross Creek. These increases will come into effect from 1 July 2007.

2.10 Funding proposal (Brian Pickup, Sunfish NQ).

Brian Pickup presented the Authority with a request to sponsor an angler education trailer for Sunfish NQ. The trailer will be used to further the Junior Recreational Angler Education programs in our region. Lesley McMahon will investigate the proposal and advise Brian Pickup of the Authority's decision.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Port Expansion Project (Barry Holden, Townsville Port Authority).

Barry Holden advised members that geo-tech works on planned major projects for the Port of Townsville are about to commence. According to the Authority's Strategic Plan, the highest growth scenario for the port sees trade triple by 2030 which will require an additional six berths.

3.2 Solar Power (Vern Veitch).

Vern Veitch enquired whether the Authority was interested in using solar power as an alternative energy option.

Barry Holden stated that the Authority is very supportive of alternative energy sources and fully-supports the Solar Cities program. Future opportunities for utilising large roof areas for electricity generation will be considered.

3.2 New Members (Lesley McMahon, Townsville Port Authority).

Lesley McMahon advised members that she will shortly be running an advertisement in the Townsville Bulletin to invite any new community groups to join the Port Community Forum.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 7 August 2007 at the Townsville Port Authority Administration Building.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.