



PORT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORUM MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2006

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Steve McGuire, Ross Island Residents Association
Paul Holden, Townsville Enterprise Limited
Michael Offermans, South Townsville Neighbourhood Watch Committee
Richard Perkins, Urban Quarter Apartments
Arwen Rickert, Environment and Behaviour Consultants
Barry Holden, TPA
Lesley McMahon, TPA
Catherine Hobbs, TPA
Melinda Loudon, TPA
Ranee Crosby, TPA

APOLOGIES: Peter Mellor, DSDI
Thea Hiskins, TRAC
James McLellan, NQCC
Brian Pickup, Sunfish NQ
Vern Veitch, NaREF
Roy Shearer, Small Vessel Operator
Tanya Thoreau, MICDA
Allison Hope, MICDA

2. AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Eastern Access Corridor Update (Arwen Rickert, Environment and Behaviour Consultants)

Arwen Rickert provided a brief overview of the status of the proposed Eastern Access Corridor. The Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation information has been submitted to the federal Government. Most of the planning has been completed, but detailed design works are still being finalised. This is expected to continue until construction begins.

A request for preliminary funding will be submitted to the federal Government by the end of 2006.

The public consultation period is expected to be held in February or March 2007, where the proposed design work will be presented to the public. It will be advertised prior to commencement.

Richard Perkins enquired about the total cost of the project.

Paul Holden stated that it is estimated to be around \$190 million.

2.2 Port Business Park Development (Ranee Crosby, Townsville Port Authority).

Ranee Crosby provided members with an update on the progress of the new Port Business Park. The development is proceeding on schedule and once the site is levelled, remaining works will include the construction of sewerage, water supply and stormwater facilities, as well as the construction of an internal road. The business park will house approximately nine port-related businesses, once completed. These businesses will mainly comprise offices and warehouse facilities that require close access to the Port of Townsville.

To date, the main impacts have related to material being dropped on the road during the carting process, and concerns regarding dust.

Sweeper trucks are being used to clean any spilled dirt from the roads. The dust concerns are being dealt with by spraying water. Regular dust monitoring is also being carried out in the area.

Subdivision works are due to be completed by the end of January or early February 2007.

Ranee advised members that further notices will be delivered to nearby residents on the progress of the project.

2.3 Environmental Management Strategy (Melinda Loudon, Townsville Port Authority).

Melinda Loudon presented a new port-wide Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), which has just been finalised by the Authority and port users. It provides a clear strategic environmental direction for the Port of Townsville. The document allows for whole-of-port environmental reporting and includes performance measures.

Particular areas it focuses on include: air quality, coastal protection, dredging and sediment quality, environmental awareness, exotic species management, groundwater quality, noise, port planning and land management, social and community values, stormwater and water management, and waste management.

The EMS has been distributed to all port customers and involvement in the EMS and reporting of results to the Authority is completely voluntary.

Reporting will be carried out on an annual basis, and will include comparison to relevant national or State guidelines. The report will indicate which companies have participated in the EMS, however the report will not identify the results of each company.

Melinda advised members that there are many benefits to the new document. The public will be able to access whole-of-port reporting, it provides a clear uniform direction for all port customers, it assists smaller operators to achieve good environmental outcomes, it streamlines processes, and provides an annual environmental report card. The EMS is available on the TPA website www.townsville-port.com.au

2.4 Townsville Port Authority Statement of Proposal (Catherine Hobbs, Townsville Port Authority)

Catherine Hobbs presented an update on the Authority's Statement of Proposal. Public consultation has concluded, with a total of 15 written responses received.

The Statement of Proposal forms part of Townsville Port Authority's strategic planning process and is the first step in a process that will result in a new Land Use Plan for the Port of Townsville.

The feedback received will be considered for inclusion in the draft Land Use Plan. It included feedback from the community, local companies and organisations and Government agencies.

The next step of the process will be the development of a draft Land Use Plan. The community and other stakeholders will also be given the opportunity to comment on the Draft Land Use Plan upon its completion, which is expected to be in mid-2007.

2.5 Annual Report (Lesley McMahon, Townsville Port Authority)

Lesley McMahon advised members that the Authority's 2005/2006 annual report has been released and is available on www.townsville-port.com.au. Hard copies can be obtained by calling the Authority on (07) 4781 1500.

Members were provided with a copy of the report.

2.6 Ocean Terminal Update (Ranee Crosby, Townsville Port Authority)

Ranee Crosby advised members that the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement has just been released and is available for public comment until 18 December 2006.

Further information can be obtained from: www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au/eis.

Members were provided with a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Bridge Across Ross Creek

Michael Offermans enquired as to the progress of discussions regarding the construction of a bridge across Ross Creek from Archer Street.

Ranee Crosby stated that Townsville City Council and the developers of the Ocean Terminal project are in negotiations on the matter.

3.2 Watering in the Environmental Park

Melinda Loudon advised members that the Authority has recently received a complaint from a local resident stating that the Authority was watering excessively in the Environmental Park. The complainant was upset that she couldn't walk through the park.

Melinda advised members that the Authority waters the area once a week, and adheres to Townsville City Council water restrictions.

3.3 Cyclone Season

Lesley McMahon advised members that the Authority has a cyclone procedures brochure which details precautions that should be taken by small boat owners in Ross Creek and Ross River.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained from Townsville Port Authority's offices, or by visiting www.townsville-port.com.au.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 13 February 2007 at the Townsville Port Authority Administration Building.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.