

Townsville Port Community Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday 25 September 2019
Venue: Port of Townsville, Administration Building, Boardroom
Chair: Raneë Crosby, CEO, Port of Townsville

Attendees

1	Raneë Crosby	CEO, POTL (Chair)	9	Adam Smith	Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC)
2	Kim Gebers	GM Infrastructure POTL	10	Sharon Marks	Community Rep
3	Kim Wheatley	Manager Corporate Affairs POTL	11	Leslie Sampson	President of Magnetic Island Community Development Association
4	Emily Harrington	Corporate Affairs Administration Officer (minutes) PTOL	12	Vern Veitch	Community Rep
5	Marissa Wise	GM Major Projects, CU Project POTL	13	Rick Vernon	Magnetic Island Ratepayers Association
6	Mark Jenkins	Manager Marine Operations POTL	14	Leon Kippin	Community Rep
7	Melinda Loudon	Manager Environment and Planning POTL	15	Norman Rains	Townsville Birdlife
8	Judy Newman	Community Rep	16	Heath Hatfield	Community Rep

Apologies

1	Adam Hinks	Community Rep	5	John Cordingley	Glencore
2	Christopher Miegel	Community Rep	6	Keith Nobel	Community Rep
3	Ken Dunlop	Sun Metals	7	Bevan Lord	Townsville Ross River Marina
4	Martin Powley	Public Relations Officer, CU Project POTL			

Actions Summary

ACTION: Kim G to organize ITAC chair for next suitable meeting

ACTION: Send CLG website link to the Dashboard

ACTION: Send CLG a list of Port wide Environmental Monitoring Programs and copy of Melinda's presentation

ACTION: Send CLG link to Annual Report on website.

ACTION: Invite Sealink to do a presentation on the new Ferry Terminal

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair Raneë Crosby welcomed members to the CLG's 24th meeting, noted apologies and introduced new member Marissa Wise, General Manager Major Projects, Channel Upgrade Project.

2. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without change and all actions have been completed or were addressed during the meeting.

There was general discussion about the outcome of the Materiality Survey and how the Port can shape its strategies around this to ensure the correct messages are getting across to the community. Adam Smith noted disappointed that climate change didn't rate highly.

Kim Wheatley gave an update on DAIS and the first draft of 'Harbour City' which is being slightly revised.

3. Berth 4 Cranes and Terminal Area

Mark Jenkins gave a presentation on the update of the Berth 4 Crane and Terminal area. The Port wants to increase container trade as part of its growth strategy. The container terminal is on track to be completed February 2020 and a new ship to shore container crane will be delivered October 2020 and commissioned by December 2020. It is expected that the new container crane will be able to move approximately 25 containers an hour.

A draft operating procedure has been developed and is now in discussion with stevedores. This SOP will provide guidance on how the terminal is operated in a multi-user environment. Once the new terminal and crane are operational, we should see an increase in container handling productivity, competition in stevedoring and reduction in rates leading to increased trade.

4. Port-Wide Environmental Monitoring Results

Melinda Louden explained the roles of the Environment and Planning Team and went through the Environmental Monitoring programs the Port undertakes. She pointed out that the CLG was heavily involved establishing the Environment Dashboard on the Port website and it will be more user friendly than it currently is.

ACTION: Send CLG website link to the Dashboard.

Key areas of note from the monitoring programs

- Air Quality was impacted recently with a dust cloud and smoke which increased the Particle PM10 to nearly 300 from normal levels, which are around 20-25.
- Water Quality was impacted during the floods with peaks in turbidity and fresh water. PFAS was identified in 20 locations as opposed to six locations (normally up Ross Creek and Ross River).

Historically, Biosecurity undertakes a range of monitoring programs around the Port however, have limited on ground monitoring waterside. However, the last few years Marine Pests has been a priority area and have been resourced. One of the outcomes of this is a state-wide pilot program that the Port has been involved is trialing a new marine pest monitoring system testing DNA rather than relying on visual identification. The first results will be available in 4-6 weeks.

The Channel Upgrade Project has different Environmental Monitoring programs that are overseen by the ITAC (Independent Technical Advisory Committee) and CROC (Compliance Regulatory Oversight Committee). It was asked if these groups monitor maintenance dredging and Melinda explained that there was a dredging expert in the group.

The Marine Water Monitoring Program will collect monthly samples from 12 telemetered sub-tidal and four inter-tidal locations. The Coral Monitoring Program surveys six impact locations and four controlled locations quarterly. The Seagrass Monitoring Program is surveyed every six months. After the flooding the seagrass was still healthy. MODIS is an additional tool that captures two satellite images per day which allows for near real time images during dredging.

The Inshore Dolphin Monitoring Program captures information about the population from photo/visual identification. However, there is limited information relating to dolphin populations and movements outside Cleveland Bay. The Marine Fauna Monitoring Program studies turtles and dugongs but an appropriate assessment method is yet to be established. The Shorebird Monitoring Program has completed a baseline survey from October 2018 -January 2019 and data collected will be used to develop an ongoing monitoring program.

ACTION: Send CLG a list of Port wide Environmental Monitoring Programs and copy of Melinda's presentation.

5. Museum of Underwater Art

Adjunct Associate Professor Adam Smith from GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committee gave an update on the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA). John Brewer Reef has been selected given its long history of commercial tourism, with the Strand, Palm Island and Magnetic Island chosen as the sites for future artwork. MOUA will bring together the artistic and the scientific worlds and the model has been successful in other parts of the world. The idea was originally discussed in 2016 and is now in the final stages of public feedback. Adam says based on other projects the artist has designed in Spain and the Bahamas, MOUA will inspire conservation and arts, increase tourism and the economy and provide educational opportunities.

The Coral Greenhouse for the John Brewer Reef was completed in September and is expected to be installed in December and open in April 2020. The Ocean Siren is expected to be installed on the Strand by the end of 2019.

Kim W stated the Cruise companies she spoke with are excited about this future tourist attraction.

6. Port Updates

Ranee told the CLG the Annual Report has been published.

ACTION: Send CLG link to Annual Report on website.

Ranee also gave an update of the Channel Upgrade Project. The Port is still evaluating the rock supplier tenders and the dredging tender. The operations plan has been submitted but is waiting on regulatory approvals. Ranee extended an invitation to the CLG to witness when the first rock is put in the water. She also explained that the dredging won't start for another 12 months.

Ranee spoke about the Strand Ferry Terminal and that the Port is still waiting for the final decision from State Government. Construction is due to start in April 2020.

ACTION: Invite Sealink to do a presentation on the new Ferry Terminal

Queensland Nickel has gone public saying it is looking at re-opening . Talks are progressing with the Port and Glencore to try and reach an agreement. Ranee also spoke about the Port hosting the Australian Cruise conference in 2020 and the first cruise ship of this season arriving on 21 October.

Kim W spoke about the Magnetic Island community members who toured the Port in mid-September and extended the invitation to CLG members if they knew of community groups wanting a tour.

7. Around the Table & General Business

Norm Rains from Townsville Birdlife presented an overview of Wongaloo Wetlands saying it was currently teeming with birdlife. The CLG was invited to attend Wongaloo the following Saturday (29 September). The CLG commented on how lucky Townsville was to have the wetlands and the strong community associated with it.

Leon Kippin spoke about the Rotary meeting and great tour they had recently with David Sibley.

Vernon Veitch brought up a LMAC \$15,000 grant to help with developing a litter strategy for Townsville and identifying the worst area and how to change behaviors.

CLG discussed the outlook and health of the Great Barrier Reef claiming that the average temperature change for Townsville had been 2°C in the last 60 years.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Location – Port of Townsville

Suggested Tour – Reef HQ Turtle Hospital

Meeting closed at approximately 6:45pm