

CAIRNS SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement

APPENDIX E: Stakeholder Engagement Report



Cairns Shipping Development Project

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Report

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Stakeholder and Community Engagement Report

1. Introduction

Ports North has engaged with a range of stakeholders and community members during the preparation of the Draft and Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the Cairns Shipping Development Project (CSDP).

Stakeholder engagement and consultation for the Draft EIS was undertaken from October 2012 to September 2014. The report appears as Appendix B in the Draft EIS submitted to the Co-ordinator General in 2014.

This Stakeholder and Community Engagement Report encompasses activities undertaken for the preparation of the Revised Draft EIS from March 2016 to May 2017 and outlines how the outcomes of these activities have been taken into consideration in the EIS. It addresses section 5.8 of the Australian Government's Guidelines for an EIS and section 3.7 of the Queensland Government's EIS Terms of Reference in relation to public consultation. These requirements are included in **Appendix 1**.

Given that the major component of this project is proposed dredging to expand the shipping channel, engagement activities focused on the people and groups who have the greatest potential to be impacted by this aspect of the project. These included public sector, private sector, tourism bodies and NGO stakeholders with an interest in the marine environment and economic development.

The views of the broader community have also been taken into consideration during the preparation of the Revised Draft EIS through community engagement activities and monitoring of public opinion.

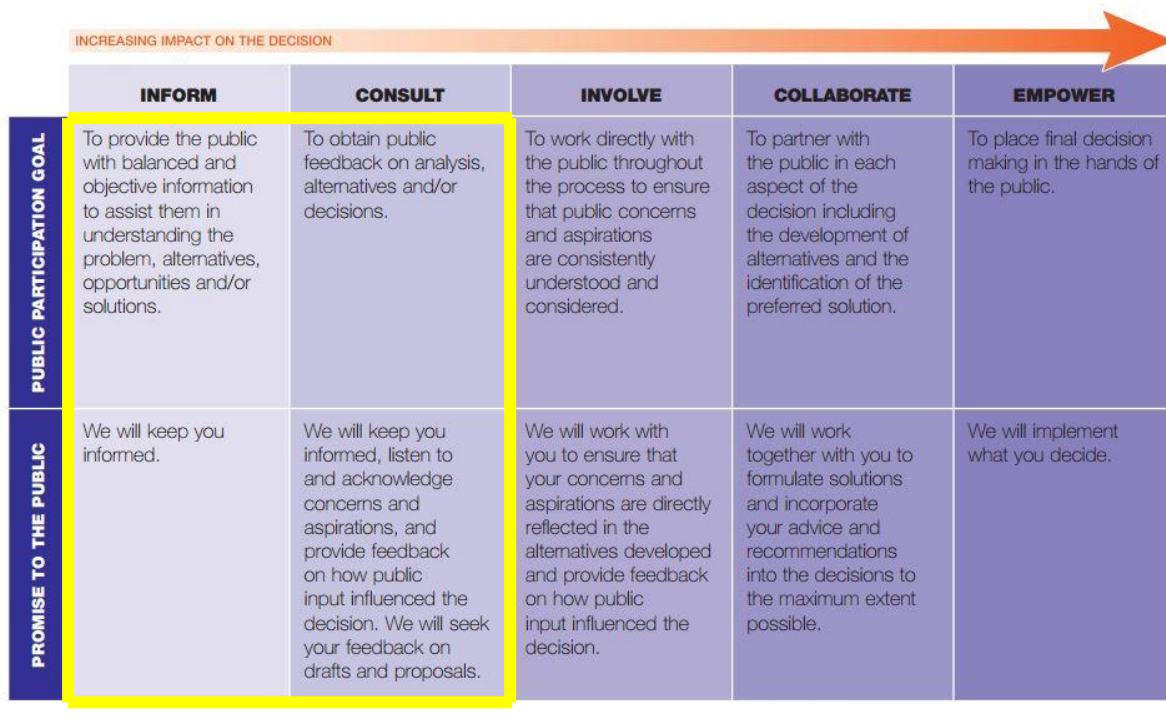
1.1 Engagement objectives


A number of engagement objectives were articulated for the Project at the outset of the EIS process and have continued to guide the development of the Revised Draft EIS. These included:

- to provide information about the EIS to relevant stakeholders and community members during the preparation of the EIS
- to provide opportunities for interested people and groups to learn about the EIS as it progresses so they can make informed comments during the public comment period
- to provide opportunities for Ports North to engage with people and groups to better understand the real and perceived impacts and benefits of the project
- to address the consultation requirements of both the Queensland Government EIS Terms of Reference (ToR) and Commonwealth Government EIS Guidelines.

1.2 Engagement approach

The International Association for Public Participation’s (IAP2) Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum were used to guide the development of the engagement program as shown in Figure 1. While the spectrum is focused on ‘community’ stakeholders, the description of participation and engagement offered at each level is also transferrable to other stakeholder groups. Engagement activities for this stage of the Project aimed to inform and consult (highlighted in yellow).



INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Figure 1: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

2. Key stakeholders engaged

Key stakeholders engaged during the Project, which are outlined in Table 1, fall within one of the following categories:

- **Decision makers/influencers** – those with decision making power or the ability to influence decisions (Ports North, DoE, GBRMPA, Coordinator-General, other government agencies).
- **Business and industry groups** – groups who promote economic development and employment or operate businesses within the region.
- **Port users and tenants** - those who currently use the Port of Cairns and will continue to do so during construction and operation of the expanded port.
- **Local and regional communities** - people who live and work within Cairns and the surrounding area.
- **Community/special interest groups** - those who have a specific interest in an aspect associated with the expansion project i.e. environmental groups.
- **Indigenous groups** - groups with current Native Title claims or expressions of interest in cultural heritage matters.

Table 1 Identified stakeholders

Australian Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Defence - Royal Australian Navy (HMAS Cairns Naval Base) • Department of the Environment (DoE) • Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) • Federal Member for Leichardt - The Hon Warren Entsch • Federal Treasurer – The Hon Scott Morrison
State Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) • Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) • Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) • Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR) • Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation (DSITI) • Department of State Development - Coordinator-General • Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) • Treasury Department • Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) - Maritime Safety Queensland

MSQ) (Harbour Master)

- Treasurer, Minister for Trade and Investment – The Hon Mr Curtis Pitt
- Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports – The Hon Mark Bailey
- Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland – The Hon Coralee O'Rourke
- State Member for Barron River – The Hon Craig Crawford

Cairns Regional Council

- Mayor Bob Manning
- Councillors
- Council officers

Business and industry groups

- Economic development bodies:
 - Advance Cairns
 - Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Tourism industry:
 - Queensland Tourism Industry Council
 - Tourism Tropical North Queensland
- Cruise Shipping Companies and related industry bodies:
 - Australian Cruise
 - Ports Australia
 - Royal Caribbean
 - Carnival

Community / special interest groups

- User groups:
 - Port tenants
 - Local Marine Advisory Group (LMAC)
 - Ports Advisory Group (Cairns)
 - Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC)
 - Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)
 - Alliance for Sustainable Tourism

- Environmental groups:
 - Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)
 - World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)
 - Reef and Rainforest Research Centre
- Other:
 - East Trinity Group

Indigenous groups

Indigenous Parties

- Irukandji People
- Gunggandji People
- Mandingalbay People
- Gimuy Walubara Yidinji People
- Other unknown native title claimants for the outer channel

3. Engagement methods

The engagement program for the Revised Draft EIS continued use of the following engagement tools and activities:

- **Meetings and briefings**– These sessions were held with relevant stakeholders to both provide information about the project and gain information from stakeholders regarding their operations and/or opinions of the project. More than 43 meetings and briefings have been held with stakeholders since March 2016. The outcomes of these information sessions are discussed in section 4.1.
- Numerous individual meetings and discussions were held with owners and lessees of land that the project may utilise during works.
- **Fact sheets** – Two fact sheets for the CSD Project were distributed to stakeholders and made available on the Ports North website. Copies of these fact sheets are included in **Appendix 2**.
- **Media activities** – One media release was distributed by the Treasurer on June 21, 2016. The media release is included in **Appendix 3**. A summary of media activity is presented in section 4.3.
- **Website** – The Ports North website was used as a source of information about the CSD Project and provided contact details for those seeking further project information. See **Appendix 4**.

- **Phone/email** – Email address enquiries@portsnorth.com.au and phone number (07) 4052 3888 and were advertised on the Ports North website and in fact sheets as methods to contact Ports North regarding the project.

4. Engagement outcomes

The following sections outline the engagement activities undertaken and the outcomes of these actions. The issues raised and the mitigation strategies proposed are addressed in section 4.2.

4.1 Meetings and briefings

A series of meetings, briefings and workshops regarding the CSD Project took place from March 2016 until May 2017 as shown in Table 2. These meetings were attended by Ports North and/or consultants involved in the preparation of the Revised Draft EIS.

Table 2 Meetings and briefings

Date	Location	Details
Australian Government		
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)		
20 June 2016	Cairns	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Provided Project presentation and fact sheet
Treasurer – The Hon Scott Morrison MP		
23 June 2016	Cairns	As Chair for Advance Cairns. Provided Project presentation and fact sheet
Federal Member for Leichardt - The Hon Warren Entsch MP		
21 June 2016	Cairns	Provided Project presentation and fact sheet
State Government		
Department of State Development (DSD)		
17 June 2016	Brisbane	Provided briefing to Coordinator-General (Barry Broe)
7 July 2016	Brisbane	Provided briefing to Director-General, Michael Schaumberg
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)		
20 June 2016	Brisbane	Provided Project presentation

Date	Location	Details
Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) (Harbour Master)		
17 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to the Regional Harbour Master, Michael Barrett
Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment State Member for Mulgrave – The Hon Curtis Pitt		
13 May 2016 December 2016 24 February 2017	Cairns	Provided briefing
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports – The Hon Mark Bailey		
1 June 2016 19 December 2016 14 March 2017	Brisbane	Provided briefing
State Member for Barron River – The Hon Craig Crawford		
8 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
Minister Assisting the Premier on North Qld – The Hon Coralee O’Rourke		
14 December 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
Building Queensland		
7 July 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
Local Government		
Mayor – Cr Bob Manning OAM		
8 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
Cairns Regional Council (CRC)		
22 August 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to Council officers. Supportive of project with no significant issues raised.
27 April 2017	Cairns	Provided briefing to Council Works Department on the CSD Project and input was sought from Council in relation to identifying any cumulative impacts with other works planned by Council including timing and location of the works. No significant issues were identified and the CRC confirmed they had not encountered any community issues while undertaking previous pumping and dredging projects in the Northern

Date	Location	Details
		Beaches area.
Business and industry groups		
Economic development bodies		
Advance Cairns		
17 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to Advance Cairns, CEO, Kevin Byrne
16 March 2017	Cairns	Provided briefing to Advance Cairns Board
Cairns Chamber of Commerce		
17 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to CEO, Deb Hancock, and President, Sam Marino
Cairns Port Development Inc.		
21 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
Queensland Tourism Industry Council		
28 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to CEO, Daniel Gschwind
Regional Development Australia (Far NQ and Torres Straits)		
Tourism industry		
Tourism Tropical North Queensland		
20 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to Chair, Max Shepherd, and CEO, Alex de Waal
Ports Advisory Group Cairns		
28 June 2016	Cairns	Provided project update and advised availability of fact sheet. No significant issues raised.
Tourism operators		
Association Marine Park Tourism Operators		
20 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing to Col McKenzie and Tony Baker
Cruise Shipping Companies and related industry bodies		
Royal Caribbean		
20 June 2016	Telephone	Provided briefing to Gavin Smith No significant issues raised.
Carnival Cruises		
16 June 2016	Telephone	Provided briefing to Executive CEO, Ann Sherry

Date	Location	Details
		No significant issues raised.
Community / special interest groups		
User groups		
Port Advisory Group – Cairns		
Group members include representative from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Sugar Ltd • Maritime Safety Queensland • CPAG • Quicksilver Group of Companies • Maritime Safety Queensland • Cairns Navy League • Australian Border Force • BSE Cairns Slipways • Sea Swift • Cairns Yacht Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian White & Associates • Caltex Australia • Carter Marine Agencies / Superyacht Group • International Purveyors • Caltex Australia • Below • Thymac • HMAS Cairns • Carter Marine Agencies Pty Ltd • Viva Energy • Cairns Port Development Inc. • Cairns Bulk Sugar Terminal 	
20 December 2016	Cairns	Project update provided. No significant issues raised.
28 February 2017	Cairns	Project update provided and advised availability of fact sheet. No significant issues raised.
Local Marine Advisory Committee - Cairns		
10 March 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing on CSD Project. Items of discussion included: <p>(a) EIS ToR</p> <p>Two members queried if, given the change in the scope of this next stage of the EIS, the original ToR were still applicable; and should such be reviewed given sea disposal is no longer.</p> <p>Members were advised that Ports North were continuing this stage of the process to define the scope of the next phase of the EIS and were in regular contact with the respective State and Federal government departments. No advice had been received of any changes, and the studies were to be in accordance with the initial EIS ToR.</p> <p>(b) EIS consultation</p> <p>Concern was raised about the short period of time (for public unfamiliar with the two years of prior work compiled into a large</p>

Date	Location	Details
		<p>document) that the last EIS was out for consultation. There was a query whether the legislation states it is a “minimum of 20 days” or and “actual 20 day” consultation period.</p> <p>Members were advised that Ports North had met the requirements and advice of the Office of the Coordinator-General in respect of the last EIS consultation phase and would be following such for future as the timeline and process are prescribed under the relevant State and Federal environment and planning legislation.</p> <p>(c) A member asked if Ports North were to proceed with the first lot of <50,0000 cubic metres dredging allowed under the Sustainable Ports Development Bill (2015). Ports North advised that areas of potential small scale capital dredging were being considered as part of the CSD Project as well as various proposals for port trade and uses.</p> <p>(d) Business Case The Chair asked if Ports North could present the business case for the CSD Project at a future LMAC meeting to understand how the various components had been complied. Ports North advised they would follow-up with the project team and advise at a future meeting.</p> <p>Overall there was a high level of interest in port dredging activity.</p>
12 May 2016	Cairns	<p>There was no significant content on CSD Project discussed at meeting.</p> <p>Members were advised that a more formal announcement was proposed in coming month on the status of the project.</p>
19 July 2016	Cairns	<p>Provided a presentation on the revised CSD project.</p> <p>Queries were raised in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pumping of dredged material • status of the rehabilitation of East Trinity • consultation with the Mandingalbay People • the length of the pipeline • the types of vessels that would be “enabled” by the channel upgrade • the capability of existing wharves to handle

Date	Location	Details
		larger vessels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> soil quality and geotechnical quality for other uses contamination status of material and a query on what the intended location was for the maintenance material arising from the capital works interfacing with GBRMPA on the project going forward. Overall, no major concerns were raised.
20 September 2016	Cairns	Provided advice on the completion of maintenance dredging and update on the CSD Project. No comments, complaints or queries were raised.
20 November 2016	Cairns	Presentation made by Denis Walls on the future of East Trinity and the proposed wetlands park. No questions or queries raised on status of CSD Project in respect of intentions for East Trinity site.
23 March 2017	Cairns	Provided a presentation outlined pipeline routes and two potential site options. No significant issues raised.
Technical Advisory Consultative Committee (TACC)		
11 August 2016	Cairns	Provided a presentation. One agency representative queried how the new channel profile would change the volume of maintenance. No other comments received.
Environmental groups		
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)		
14 July 2016	Cairns	Provided a briefing on revised project, updated demand study, land placement options and site options. Discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent at East Trinity Query on groundwater impacts and flood resuspension at Barron Delta sites CAFNEC requested that the EIS be clear and detailed on demand and economic justification eg. Cairns vs Yorkeys Knob numbers and growth, with and without the CSD Project, and cumulative impacts such as extra shipping. CAFNEC advised they would oppose dredged

Date	Location	Details
		material placement at East Trinity.
Reef and Rainforest Research Centre		
28 June 2016	Cairns	Provided briefing
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)		
27 July 2016	Telephone	Presentation e-mailed to L Mathieson
Other:		
Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre		
May 2017	Telephone	Provided a project update
Southern Cross University		
8 July 2016	Cairns	Provided a briefing to Potential Acid Sulphate Soil (PASS) Research Expert, Dr Richard Bush. Outlined project and extent of investigations of PASS issues. Dr Bush provided technical references.
Impacted land owners		
2-9 May 2017	Various	Provided project update to potentially impacted land owners in the Barron Delta. No significant issues were raised. Letters have also were sent to impacted land owners confirming discussions.
Indigenous groups		
Mandingalbay People		
10 June 2016	Cairns	Provided presentation to Mandingalbay (MYAC)
2 Feb 2016 18 May 2016 5 August 2016 16 August 2016	Cairns	Attended MYAC Eco Tourism Steering committee meetings. Mutual support and agreement to develop project details in order to avoid constraining respective projects expressed by both parties in meetings and various correspondences.
Gimuy Walubara Yidinji People		
11 July 2016		Met with and provided a presentation to Gimuy representatives, Henrietta and Adrian Marrie. No objections or key concerns expressed. Gimuy interest lies more in recognition of their Traditional Owner status along the waterfront and in Cityport land developments.

4.2 Stakeholder issues raised and mitigation taken

Issue raised	Mitigation strategy / comment
<p>Potential impacts from the overall project on intangible cultural heritage, specifically the marine resources and story places around Trinity Inlet</p>	<p>The CHMP(s) developed for this project should include opportunities for the Aboriginal parties to contribute to ongoing monitoring of environmental health in the Trinity Inlet. The aim of the monitoring would be for the Aboriginal parties to be ‘keeping an eye’ on country to ensure cultural and natural values are not degraded as a result of the CSD Project. This could be done in conjunction with existing environmental controls (ie. representatives of the Aboriginal party participating in environmental studies that are already being conducted) and need not be a standalone project.</p>
<p>Environmental impacts</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Aboriginal groups whose interests incorporate Trinity Inlet (Yirrganydji Gurabana, Gimuy Yidinji, Malanbarra Yidinji, Djumbinji and Gunggandji) are informed of the potential environmental impacts and proposed management strategies prior to the commencement of the project. Relevant Aboriginal parties should also have an opportunity to participate in ongoing monitoring of environmental health of Trinity Inlet after dredging has commenced.</p> <p>It is recommended that, in terms of the broader project scope both Yirrganydji (Irukandjii) People and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji People are informed of the results of environmental assessments of the CSDP project during design, construction and operation of the facility, through face to face meetings.</p>
<p>General Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • groundwater impacts and flood resuspension at Barron Delta sites • EIS should be clear and detailed on demand and economic justification including Cairns versus Yorkeys Knob numbers and growth, with and without the project • cumulative impacts (eg extra shipping) • soil quality and geotechnical quality for other uses • contamination status of material • the past 16 years of rehabilitation at East Trinity should not be reversed by proposed land development or spoil placement, but turned into a wetland park 	<p>All issues identified have been addressed in the EIS.</p>

4.3 Media activity

Ports North has been raised awareness of the CSD Project via the local media since late 2012 when the Initial Advice Statement for the Project was released for public comment.

Throughout the period of the Revised Draft EIS, Ports North has continued to respond to media enquiries. Media monitoring of public opinion included approximately 90 project mentions between 1 March 2016 and 30 April 2017 with 51 mentions being positive, 21 neutral and 18 being negative. The negative mentions were predominantly regarding project delays rather than the project itself.

A copy of the media release issued by the Treasurer, The Hon Curtis Pitt, is included in **Appendix 3**.

4.4 Community feedback

Community comment, feedback and complaints can be provided to Ports North via a range of communication channels including phone, email, post or fax. These contact details are available to the community on Ports North's website (see **Appendix 4**).

These contact details have also been provided in fact sheets related to the project. Comments, feedback and complaints are promptly addressed by Ports North's Corporate Services team with the assistance of the technical personnel from the project team as required. The communication channels established for the planning and approvals phase of the project would be maintained for future phases of the project including construction and operation.

5. Conclusion

Ports North has continued to engage with a range of stakeholders and community members during the preparation of the Revised Draft EIS for the CSD Project. This engagement has met and exceeded the requirements for stakeholder consultation outlined in both the Australian Government's Guidelines for an EIS and Queensland Government's EIS ToR in relation to public consultation (see **Appendix 1**). Targeted engagement activities have focused on people and groups who have the greatest potential to be impacted or benefit from the project including public sector, private sector and NGO stakeholders with an interest in the marine environment and economic development.

In relation to broader public perceptions of the CSD Project, there continues to be interest in the issues associated with dredging in the vicinity of the Great Barrier Reef at local, national and international levels. While these issues are not centred on the CSD Project, they remain relevant to the overall consideration of project.

Overall engagement outcomes were positive with the majority of stakeholders and the local community keen to see the project progress due to the economic benefits it will bring the region, but acknowledge that the environment needs to be protected at the same time. The size of the project together with a land option for dredged material placement has been well received.

Appendix 1 EIS Guidelines (Australian Government) and Terms of Reference (State Government)

Australian Government consultation requirements as outlined in the Guidelines for an EIS are as follows:

5.8 Consultation

The proponent is required to consult with all stakeholders including Traditional Owners, with a particular focus on individuals/sectors that may be affected by the proposal (affected parties), as part of the EIS process. Details of any consultation about the action must be provided. This is to include:

- *Any consultation that has already taken place including details on the frequency, forum and timeframes provided for consultation.*
- *Identification of affected parties, including a statement mentioning any individuals/sectors/ communities that may be affected and a summary of their views.*
- *Proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the action.*
- *If there has been consultation about the proposed action, details of the issues discussed, including the views of the affected parties and any documented response to, or result of, the consultation.*
- *Details on how affected parties comments received during consultations have been addressed in the EIS.*
- *Any further proposed consultation about potential impacts of the action.*

Queensland Government consultation requirements as outlined in the EIS Terms of Reference are as follows:

3.7. Public consultation process

3.7.1. Overview

The public consultation process should provide opportunities for community involvement and education. It may include interviews with individuals, public communication activities, interest group meetings, printed material and other mechanisms to encourage and facilitate active public consultation. The public consultation processes (community engagement) for all parts of the EIS should be integrated. Consultation with advisory agencies should be the principal forum for identifying legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines relevant to the project and EIS process.

3.7.2. Consultation plan

Develop and implement a comprehensive and inclusive consultation plan with the stakeholder groups identified in section 3.2 of Preparing an EIS: Guideline for proponents.

The consultation plan should identify broad issues of concern to local and regional community and interest groups and address issues from project planning through commencement, project operations and decommissioning. The consultation plan should identify:

- *The stakeholders to be targeted*
- *The types of consultation and communication activities to be undertaken*
- *Timing of activities*
- *How consultation activities will be integrated with other EIS activities and the project development process*
- *Consultation responsibilities*
- *Communication protocols*
- *Reporting and feedback arrangements*
- *How results of consultation will be considered by the proponent and integrated into the EIS process.*

3.7.3. Public consultation report

Include, as an appendix, a public consultation report detailing how the public consultation plan was implemented, and the results. It must include:

- *A list of stakeholders identified, including the Australian and Queensland Governments, local government agencies, and/or the affected parties (as defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act))*
- *Criteria for identifying stakeholders and methods used to communicate with them*
- *Details of the activities conducted to date and the future consultation strategies and programs, including those during the operational phase of the project (also outlined and included in the EMP)*
- *A summary of the issues raised by stakeholders and the means by which the issues have been addressed*
- *Details of how consultation involvement and outcomes were integrated into the EIS process*
- *Details of how consultation outcomes will be integrated into future site activities (including opportunities for engagement and provision for feedback and action if necessary).*

Appendix 2 Fact sheets

Planning for the future



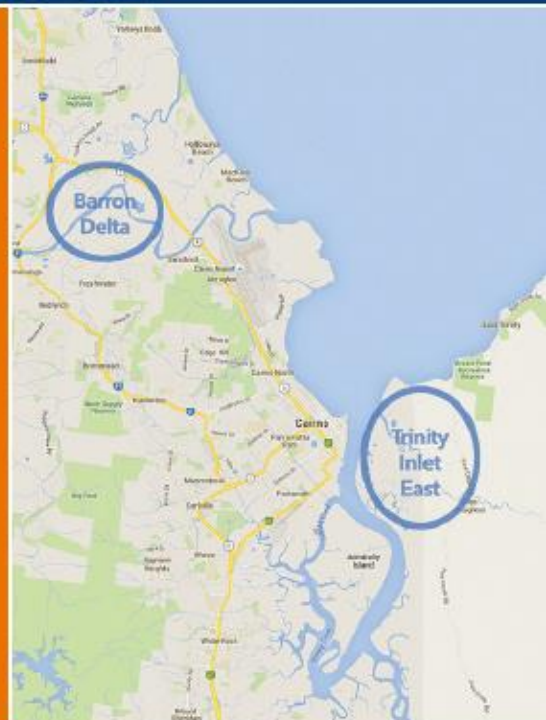
The Port of Cairns is a critical enabler of tourism, trade and defence for the region. The Cairns Shipping Development Project (CSDP) aims to develop Port infrastructure in order to secure a greater share of the lucrative international cruise ship market, enhance Naval capacity and improve Port efficiencies. Ports North is continuing to progress the CSDP completing a revised project scope to deliver a new opportunity to expand the Port of Cairns. This new approach will provide significant economic benefits to the Region while supporting future growth opportunities for Cairns and the Region.

- > Revised channel design for Mega cruise ships up to 300 metres
- > No sea disposal of capital dredge material
- > Significant reduction in dredge volume
- > Significant reduction in project costs
- > Significant growth in Mega Cruise Ships

Project Scope

- Additional 37 new Mega cruise ships by 2026, increasing to 59 with the continuation of home-porting in Cairns and development of new Brisbane cruise liner terminal
- 1 million cubic metres of dredge material
- \$120 million project costs

The revised Project significantly reduces the required capital dredge volume with two land-based disposal options being identified for potential placement or treatment of the material.





Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Ports North commenced an EIS into channel improvements in late 2012 in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out by both the State and Federal Governments. During the course of the EIS, changes including the Federal Government's regulation on sea disposal and the Queensland Government's Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 impacted the EIS outcomes.

The Queensland Coordinator General has extended the time period for finalisation of the EIS report to 30 June 2017. This allows Ports North to revise the EIS in consideration of legislation changes while maintaining the Project intent of increased cruise and other shipping access to the Port of Cairns.

What's Next

Ports North is committed to finding the best Project outcome that continues to protect the Great Barrier Reef and delivers the opportunity to provide the greatest economic and community benefit for the region.

It is essential that environmental, economic and social impacts are thoroughly investigated and understood to secure this future opportunity for Cairns and the region.

The next stage of the Project will involve -

- Baseline studies of the two identified land sites and surrounding waterways;
- A rigorous investigation of potential impacts associated with the two identified land site options including placement and treatment methodologies, land works design and establishing environmental management frameworks;
- Confirmation of revised channel design through further shipping simulations;
- Confirmation of the economic benefits to the region; and
- Preparation of the final report for submission to the Queensland Coordinator-General and Commonwealth Department of the Environment.

Consultation with stakeholders will continue throughout this process and further updates and information on the Project is available on the Ports North website www.portsnorth.com.au

Contact Us

Details about the Cairns Shipping Development Project can be found by visiting the Ports North website at www.portsnorth.com.au if you would like further information, please email enquiries@portsnorth.com.au



Cairns Shipping Development Project

Fact Sheet 2
February 2017

Planning for the future

Project Update

Ports North is continuing to progress the Cairns Shipping Development Project to deliver a new opportunity to expand the Port of Cairns. The Project will see an additional 37 new Mega cruise ships by 2026, increasing to 59 with the continuation of home-porting in Cairns and development of new Brisbane cruise liner terminal. The Environmental Impact Statement remains on track with baseline studies for two land-based disposal options for the significantly reduced capital dredge volume of 1 million cubic metres being completed.

The study sites being investigated.



At an estimated cost of \$120 million the Project is expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the Region while supporting future growth opportunities for Cairns.

- > Improved economic benefits due to increased cruise ship visitations to Cairns
- > Enable future expansion of the HMAS Cairns Navy base and provide access for the existing RAN LHD
- > Increased channel resilience against extreme weather events and improved efficiencies for bulk cargo ships accessing the Port of Cairns

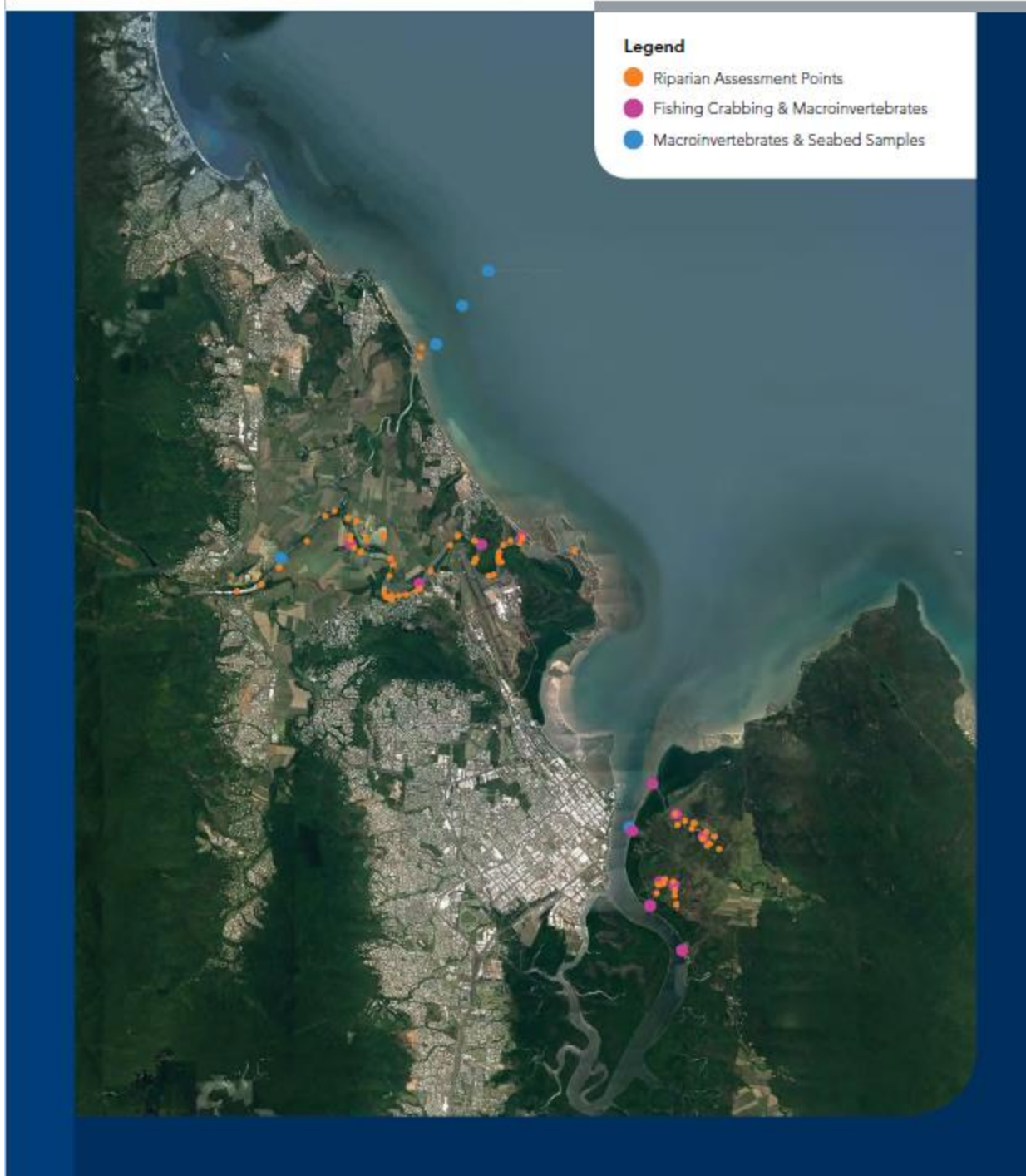
Extensive marine studies informing technical investigations, channel design and dredging methodologies as well as successful channel simulations with cruise ship companies and Defence have all been completed.

The data from these studies will now form the basis of the next phase of work being impact and mitigation assessment.

Work Completed

Work undertaken to date includes a variety of study topics encompassing extensive assessment of coastal marine processes, marine water and groundwater quality, marine and terrestrial flora and fauna, sediment quality, geology and soils, dredge material placement options and cultural heritage and native title values.

The study sites being investigated are shown below.



Study Findings

EIS Baseline Study

Completed Works and Findings

Socio-Economic

Update of social and economic benefits of project

- Ship simulations conducted with cruise companies and Navy to verify safe navigation of vessels in proposed channel upgrade
- Cruise ship demand study updated to reflect emerging and future trends, latest Australian fleet mix and changes to recent Cairns cruise schedule i.e. home porting.
- Cruise passenger surveys undertaken to determine passenger spend rates at Cairns and Yorkeys Knob

Coastal Processes

Collection of baseline data on tides, currents, waves, turbidity & sediment transport

- Data collection instruments installed in Barron River and Trinity Inlet
- Establish numerical models for assessing tailwater impacts on receiving waters
- Barron River and Trinity Inlet are estuarine environments, influenced by tidal exchange and wet season runoff.

Marine Sediment Quality

Drilling of boreholes and sediment sampling in the shipping channel for assessment & testing of material properties

- 6 boreholes drilled to 10m depth in shipping channel
- Grab samples taken at 20 locations in shipping channel
- 83 samples tested in laboratory to confirm material properties (grading, density, moisture content, shear strength, etc.)
- 71 samples tested in laboratory for Acid Sulphate Soils
- The material to be dredged is approximately 85% soft clay and silts (mud) and 15% stiffer clays, all of poor engineering quality.
- The soft clays and silts are Potential Acid Sulphate Soils (PASS)

Marine Water Quality

Collection of baseline data on pH, temperature, turbidity, salinity, dissolved metals & nutrients

- Data collection instruments installed in Barron River, Richters Creek and Palm Cove for Barron Delta and in Trinity Inlet, Hills Creek & Firewood Creek for East Trinity
- Extensive existing data retrieved from Ports North, Aquis, CRC, RRRRC, JCU, DSITI and Wet Tropics Management Authority
- Established baseline water quality parameters for numerical modelling
- Salinity in Barron River is dependent on tidal phase and freshwater run-off with moderate salinity at Barron River bridge
- Water quality in Trinity Inlet is better than near coastal waters and Hills Creek is better than Firewood Creek
- Turbidity of receiving waters is naturally variable and at times elevated by rainfall, strong winds and larger tides

Groundwater

Assessment of existing conditions & installation of boreholes to collect additional baseline data

- Extensive water quality data available from existing Barron Delta bores and DSITI monitoring of East Trinity Acid Sulphate Soils rehabilitation
- 5 new bores installed to collect 12 months data at Barron Delta
- Established hydrogeological model for assessing groundwater impacts

Marine Ecology

Seagrass, fish, crab, benthic and riparian vegetation baseline surveys

- Fish and crab surveys at 4 sites in Barron River and 8 sites at East Trinity
- Catches revealed diverse and abundant native species none of which are considered threatened
- Riparian vegetation surveys revealed more prevalent mangroves downstream of Barron River bridge and Hills Creek vegetation to be in a more advanced state of recovery than Firewood Creek
- Limited evidence of seagrass in the surveys of Barron and East Trinity

Terrestrial Ecology

Flora and fauna baseline surveys

- Limited biodiversity on Barron Delta with areas of widespread disturbance
- Moderate biodiversity at East Trinity with mapped wetlands and regional ecosystems however areas of anthropogenic grasslands with minimal natural value are available for placement sites

Various

- Baseline investigations have also been conducted for Geology & Soils, Nature Conservation Areas, Air Quality, Noise, Visual Amenity, Cultural Heritage, Flooding, Storm tide & Hydrology and Dredge Design & Logistics



Ongoing Studies and Next Steps

Ports North is satisfied that the baseline studies have identified the values, threats, opportunities and constraints in terms of the existing environment at the two placement locations.

Further studies and data collection will continue in some areas in order to better inform the assessment process. Ports North has been liaising with government approval agencies on the various study topics and following consultation have decided to collect additional wet season water quality and ecological baseline to better inform assessment outcomes.

Undertaking this further field work will add a little extra time to the EIS process, however it is important we have the best information available to inform the assessment. The Project is important to the community and economic development of Far North Queensland and it is essential that there is a robust and extensive investigation of all options and environmental impacts. To allow this important work to be undertaken, the Office of the Coordinator-General has approved an extension of time until December 2017 to complete the EIS process. Ports North is on track to submit the Draft EIS Report by June 2017.



Contact Us

Details about the Cairns Shipping Development Project can be found by visiting the Ports North website at www.portsnorth.com.au

If you would like further information, please email enquiries@portsnorth.com.au



**Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport
The Honourable Curtis Pitt**

June 21 2016

Cairns Targets Mega Ship Cruising

Treasurer Curtis Pitt has confirmed that the Cairns Shipping Development Project will now target mega cruise ships up to 300 metres in length, to take advantage of the strong growth forecast for these impressive vessels.

"I'd like to commend Ports North for focusing the project on capturing the strong growth in mid-to-large Mega Ships which means we can achieve a significantly reduced capital dredge volume (down from 4.4 million cubic metres to 1 million) and also reduce the projected cost of the project while opening the Trinity Inlet up to much larger ships," Mr Pitt said.

"Based on the revised forecasts, the project will enable the Port of Cairns to dock around an extra 37 new Mega cruise ships a year by 2026 with this increasing to 59 on the basis of a continuation of home-porting in Cairns and the establishment of the new Brisbane cruise liner terminal.

"While there is still considerable work to be done in the EIS investigation, I'm advised that the total cost will be reduced to around \$120 million.

"That's one-third of the cost of the LNP's original estimate of over \$360 million – so not only are we allowing more ships of a greater size into our Port, we're doing it for a third of the price and we're doing it responsibly to avoid the risk of impact to the Great Barrier Reef.

"I have always advocated an alternative to the LNP's reckless dredge-at-all-cost approach that would provide the greatest economic and benefit for the Tropical North without endangering our natural environment.

"Where we differ with the former government is that their proposal for capital dredging in Trinity Inlet never stacked up on any measure and couldn't proceed. However, while the parameters of the LNP's proposal were profligate, I always supported the Port's efforts to attract more and larger ships to the tropical north."

Ports Minister Mark Bailey said that the Palaszczuk Government recognised the economic importance of the Port of Cairns to the region, which was why special provisions were included in the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 to allow capital dredging for the project to proceed, subject to all environmental approvals being obtained.

"Consistent with our Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan commitments and provisions of our legislation, no capital dredge material will be permitted to be placed at sea," Mr Bailey said. "We are committed to protecting the environment while building a strong diverse

economy to create more jobs for Queenslanders and the revised scope of this project seeks to deliver on both those objectives.

“The next stage of the project will be to review potential beneficial re-use options for the significantly reduced volume of dredge material required for the project, along with impacts and management options associated with land-based disposal should beneficial re-use be unviable.”

Ports North chairman Russel Beer said the port is now completing a rigorous EIS for this revised project scope that will consider all environmental issues and impacts so that all the information is available for the regulatory agencies to assess the project.

“The Cairns Shipping Development Project is subject to environmental approvals from both the State and Federal Government Agencies before it can be delivered,” Mr Beer said. “The final EIS report will be submitted for consideration by the Queensland Coordinator- General by 30 June 2017.

“By taking an innovative approach to the new capital dredge material disposal requirements, we have been able to come up with a solution that delivers strong cruise ship growth to Cairns but only requires a quarter of the dredge volume and costs one third of the previous cost estimate.

“We have been working very closely with the global cruise industry and they confirm that Cairns will continue to be an attractive destination for cruise tourism well into the future.”

Carnival Australia Executive Chairman Ann Sherry said, “this is a positive initiative for the growth of cruise tourism in far north Queensland and adds to Cairns’ potential to become a cruise hub in its own right.”

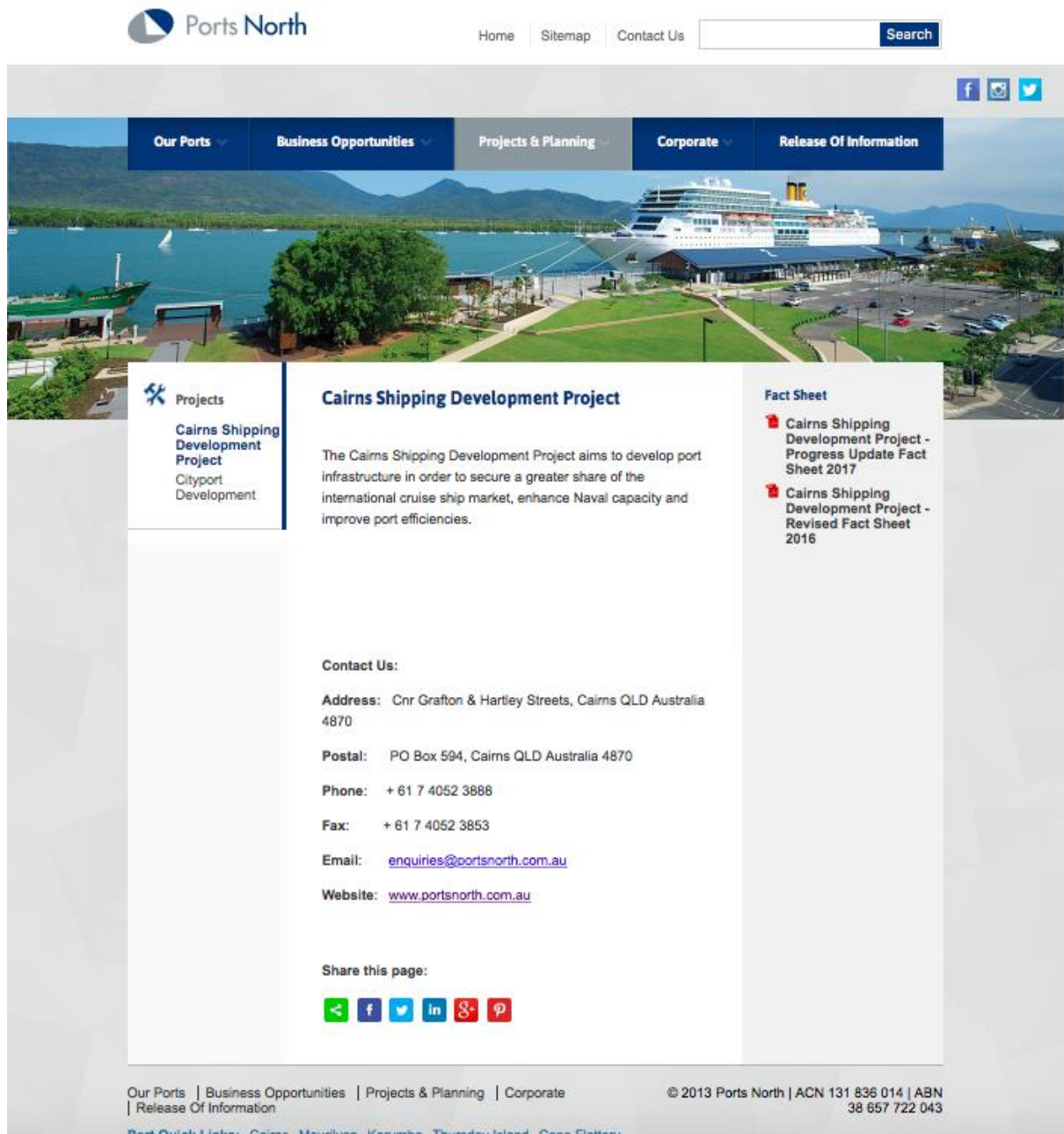
“It offers the prospect of bringing more cruise ships to the heart of the city with all of its accompanying economic benefits and improved passenger experience for our guests,” she said. “Dawn Princess’ recent call and our decision to home port Pacific Eden in Cairns later this year, the first time we have based a ship at a regional port, is already an indication of the city’s potential.”

Ports North will be meeting with tourism, business and local government leaders over the next fortnight to outline the revised project scope and have appointed local consultancy firm Flanagan Consulting Group (FCG) to work with Ports North to deliver the next stage of the Project.

The consultancy team led by FCG Project Leaders, Pat Flanagan and David Finney, will be supported by BMT-WBM, Golder Associates and other specialist consultants. “The consultancy team have extensive experience with Port related environmental impact assessments and have had previous involvement in the Cairns Shipping Development Project early works components”, Mr Beer said.

Media Contact: 0419 945 546

Appendix 4 CSD Project website



The screenshot shows the website for the Cairns Shipping Development Project. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ports North logo, links for Home, Sitemap, and Contact Us, and a search box. Below this is a main menu with categories: Our Ports, Business Opportunities, Projects & Planning, Corporate, and Release Of Information. The main content area features a large background image of a port with a cruise ship. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Projects' with a sub-link for 'Cairns Shipping Development Project Cityport Development'. The central content area is titled 'Cairns Shipping Development Project' and includes a description of the project's goals, contact information, and social media sharing options. On the right, a 'Fact Sheet' section lists two documents: 'Cairns Shipping Development Project - Progress Update Fact Sheet 2017' and 'Cairns Shipping Development Project - Revised Fact Sheet 2016'. The footer contains additional navigation links, copyright information for 2013, and quick links to other port projects.

Ports North Home Sitemap Contact Us

Our Ports **Business Opportunities** **Projects & Planning** **Corporate** **Release Of Information**

Projects
Cairns Shipping Development Project
 Cityport Development

Cairns Shipping Development Project

The Cairns Shipping Development Project aims to develop port infrastructure in order to secure a greater share of the international cruise ship market, enhance Naval capacity and improve port efficiencies.

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Fact Sheet

- Cairns Shipping Development Project - Progress Update Fact Sheet 2017**
- Cairns Shipping Development Project - Revised Fact Sheet 2016**

Our Ports | Business Opportunities | Projects & Planning | Corporate | Release Of Information © 2013 Ports North | ACN 131 836 014 | ABN 38 657 722 043

Port Quick Links: Cairns, Mourilyan, Kurumba, Thursday Island, Cape Flattery