

Mackay Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.15pm Thursday 16 November 2023 – Volunteer Marine Rescue Base

Chair:

Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

Attendees:

<p>Community representatives Neville Duncan Edan Stolberg</p> <p>Yuwi Native Title Holder representative Patricia Corrie</p> <p>Recreational Group representatives Alison Jones Lindsay Richardson</p> <p>Business representatives Michael DePinto Maree Sturdy</p> <p>Environmental representative Katrina Dent</p>	<p>Port Industry/PAG representatives Aaron Wood – Smit Lamnalco Wayne Tonga - Daltugs</p> <p>Mackay Regional Council representative N/A</p> <p>NQBP representatives Tim Lewis Emilie Power Darren Brownsey Kev Kane</p> <p>MSQ representative Jason Sweetman</p>
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Apologies: Neale Proctor, Shane Hamilton, Elizabeth Warren, Cr Paulie Townsend and Rachael Haycock

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Meeting open and apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting opened at 5.19pm • Community Reference Group members were welcomed by Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb. • Brendan provided an Acknowledgement of Country to open the meeting and provided condolences to Aunty Pat on the recent Yuwi sorry business. • Apologies recorded were Neale Proctor, Elizabeth Warren, Shane Hamilton, Cr Pauline Townsend and Rachael Haycock. 	
2. Disclosures of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members have disclosed their interests. • The register was presented, giving members the opportunity to manage appropriately. • Katrina Dent raised that Reef Catchments received a Community Fund grant from NQBP in the most recent round of funding. • No other conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting. 	
3. CRG Correspondence, Questions and Actions Register	<p>Email received from Mick DePinto to discuss sand erosion issues at North Wall. To be discussed further in General Business.</p> <p>Actions register update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some actions still outstanding but all are in various stages of progression. Will remain on register until completed. Refer to Actions Items Register for further details. 	
4. NQBP update	<p>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of NQBP's Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Themes was provided. • An overview of NQBP's achievements over the past financial year was provided including the overall trade and commodity data. • NQBP's current trade forecasts were provided including the future of coal and potential hydrogen opportunities. • An update on NQBP's commitment to community was outlined including details of sponsorships and donations during the last financial year. • NQBP has recently provided funding to Mackay Isaac Tourism (MIT) for the development of their Cruise Ship Strategy and Action Plan and will be working with MIT through this process. • TMR Master Plan for the Ports of Mackay / Hay Point due by the end of 2023. • Once Master Plan has been released, NQBP will look to put together a plan for future 	

	<p>improvements to recreational amenities at North Wall. Engagement will occur with CRG, Yuwi representatives and Mackay and District Turtle Watch. Rezoning of areas through Master Plan may provide additional challenges and extra permit requirements so works will most likely need to be staged.</p> <p>Question (ES) – Is your dividend diversified? How much of the 3 million is attributed to coal? <i>Response – NQBP’s revenue comes from many avenues; pilotage, security, engineering, safety, port charges, property / landlord tenancies. It’s different for each Port. Most of our revenue comes from the Port of Mackay because we are the owner / operator. NQBP charges by tonnage not by ship numbers.</i></p> <p>Comment (MDP) – Thank you to NQBP team who supported community through TMR Master Planning process. Looking forward to recreational improvements. There were concerns that TMR media release around increased environmental protections may reduce community amenity.</p>	
<p>5. NQBP trade update</p>	<p>Presented by General Manager Commercial and Maritime Services, Darren Brownsey</p> <p>Trade update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Port of Mackay trade statistics provided. • Mackay was just shy of our previous record last financial year (3.51Mt compared to 3.59Mt). • Strong start to the year with gran, sugar and fuel. • Port of Mackay hit 1 million tonnes throughput for the first quarter of this financial year, a first for the port. • Break bulk cargo has also been strong with recent CAT shipment. <p>DUKC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event to celebrate 30 years of DUKC in Hay Point being held early next month. • A new plaque will be unveiled at Hay Point public lookout. • Hay Point was first port in the world to implement DUKC and provides amazing efficiencies. • Last year, 39 less ships needed to visit the Port due to the optimisation of tides and loading of vessels. Creates reduction of carbon emissions. • DUKC recently approved for use in Port of Mackay. • The use of DUKC reduces the amount of dredging that needs to be undertaken. 	<p>ACTION – NQBP to send link to OMC DUKC video to CRG members</p>

<p>6. NQBP infrastructure update</p>	<p>Presented by General Manager Infrastructure, Tim Lewis</p> <p>Port projects update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4M Northern Breakwater rehabilitation is underway. Repairing damage caused by waves and weather events over decades. Works will ensure the breakwater continues to protect port infrastructure (tug berths, Wharf 5) into the future. Local contractors – Vassallos. Due to be completed early 2024. • Wharf 5 electrical upgrade are underway, estimate completion early 2024. <p>Port Binnli nib wall project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nib wall project has been completed. Official opening scheduled for early December. <p>Southern Breakwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Binnli has handed over control of Southern Breakwater back to NQBP. • Full public access has been reinstated. • NQBP is aware of some complaints regarding noise from Marina residents. NQBP will install traffic and noise monitoring as part of a data collection process which will feed into a review of community access and amenity for the Southern Breakwater. • NQBP wants to engage with the CRG and the broader community on future use of the Southern Breakwater and aims to get the balance right. • NQBP received a significant increase in complaints once the nib wall project was completed and the Southern Breakwater had not yet been reopened to vehicles (minor maintenance works were underway). Some of the behaviour was unacceptable in an aggressive manner towards NQBP employees. • Brendan encouraged CRG members to discuss their thoughts around public use of the breakwater. It is a difficult and sensitive issue to manage and there is no way to keep all members of the community happy. <p>Comment - LR – Residents of the Marina are being severely affected by the noise, the issue comes from hoons and the bouncing of noise from the higher rocks. Residents moved to the Marina for peace and quiet. They are now wanting to relocate and are having issues selling their properties due to unsatisfactory community behaviour. Letter from Body Corporate of Regatta Beach apartments was handed to NQBP. Letter requests NQBP to consider implementing noise and traffic data monitoring and a traffic curfew from sunset to sunrise.</p>	<p>ACTION – NQBP to respond to letter from the Body Corporate of Regatta Beach</p> <p>ACTION – NQBP to provide an update to CRG members at the March meeting on community access and amenity review.</p>
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	<p>Comment – ES – Agree with comments from LR. The speed of vehicles is an issue particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, and those with young families.</p> <p>Comment – AJ – Recreational fishing community would not be in support of any permanent vehicle closures, even a curfew, as access the breakwater depending on the timing of the best tides.</p> <p>Comment – AJ – Council is moving away from speed bumps and more towards traffic calmers, this seems to manage hooning more effectively.</p> <p>Question – MDP – Could the speed limit be reduced from 40 kph to 20 kph? <i>Response – This is something NQBP will look into.</i></p> <p>Question – Who can enforce the speed limits on the breakwater and manage illegal activities? <i>Response – Queensland Police Service are the only authority with the ability to issue infringement notices.</i></p> <p>Comment – AJ – You could survey community members who use the breakwater with a QR on signage. You could also invite QPS to attend next meeting.</p> <p>Comment – ND – NQBP are welcome to put noise monitoring equipment on his balcony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brendan committed to provide a formal response to the letter from the Body Corporate of Regatta Beach. • NQBP will investigate these issues further and will provide an update to CRG members at the March 2024 CRG meeting. 	
<p>7. Sustainability and environment update</p>	<p>Presented by Senior Manager Sustainability and Environment, Kev Kane</p> <p>Fox detection program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program, recently completed at Port of Hay Point. No dens detected. <p>Climate and ESG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP has a renewed focus on refreshing our 2015 sustainability plan. Will include alignment with modern ESG guidance around climate change policies and targets. CRG to be involved in materiality assessment as part of review. 	<p>ACTION – NQBP to provide words to Mick DePinto on SEMP</p>

	<p>North Wall beach erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP sought feedback and advice from DES on previous historical sand replenishment that had been occurring in conjunction with sand mining activities. • No current approvals in place for this replenishment and must not continue. • Tidal works permits are required for this type of work. • A Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) is required to support any Tidal Works applications of this nature. This SEMF needs to include scientific research and studies. • Council have advised North Harbour beach has not been included as part of their current beach management plans. • While NQBP's strategic port land ends at the high-water mark and NQBP has no authority over the beach management, we will engage an expert to undertake the development of a SEMF. • This will include engagement with community stakeholders including Mackay and District Turtle Watch. <p>Comment (MDP) - The erosion to the dunes along North Harbour beach is causing issues for turtles nesting. They are only able to get to the high tide mark to lay their eggs. Mackay and District Turtle Watch have been relocating any nests found here as they are highly vulnerable. There is also significant rocks and pebbles in the area which provides additional challenges. Seeking a resolution to the issue.</p> <p>Question – MDP – Can you provide some words to the Save Our North Wall group to demonstrate the work that you'll be doing including estimated timeframes. <i>Response – Yes, NQBP will provide a statement.</i></p>	
<p>8. Community update</p>	<p>Presented by Community and Stakeholder Advisor Emilie Power</p> <p>NQBP Sponsorships and Donations Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great response to NQBP Community Fund – 56 applications received again this year; 9 successful applicants have been advised including Sarina State High School. • NQBP's 2023-24 corporate sponsorships currently include 2023 Sarina Beach Coconut Festival and Stella Maris Seafarers support. • NQBP encouraged CRG members to donate towards the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre Christmas Shoebox appeal. 	<p>ACTION – NQBP to pass on Chamber of Commerce work experience survey link</p>

	<p>Media coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent media coverage for NQBP included the appointment of Brendan Webb as CEO and retirement of long-serving employees. Recent social media included promotion of BMA’s SABR project completion. NQBP supported DBCT’s 40th year anniversary coverage in Core magazine. <p>Local procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NQBP aim to include at least one regional supplier in local tender invitations. Up to 30% selection criteria for locally sourced work Use of QTender Open Tenders for significant spend. Encourage local suppliers to send through capability statements - procurement@nqbp.com.au <p>CRG survey and recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of year survey for CRG members to be completed, assists in improvements and running of the CRG. Review of Terms of Reference will also be completed as current term of the CRG ends after March 2024. Areas for update include sponsorships section and inclusion of clause to extend CRG term by 12 months, to be enacted if required due to resourcing / workload etc. <p>Discussion occurred around difficulties of recruiting to maritime industry. Comment - MS – Chamber of Commerce have a survey out on work experience opportunities through the VET network which includes every high school in the district. Maree will send the link to NQBP to pass on.</p>	
<p>9. General Business</p>	<p>MSQ representative, Jason Sweetman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason will be the Acting Regional Harbour until at least May 2024. The MSQ marine enforcement team has recently been in the area and have identified the Mackay region as a hot spot for infringement issues in relation to lifejackets, licencing etc. The team will have more of a presence in the area going forward. Out of 309 intercepts during their visit, 30% were found to be in breach of the rules. <p>Marina Esplanade issues - AJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An issue of the responsibility of maintenance of a public footpath located on private property in front of the Breakwater Bar & Restaurant has been raised. AJ to take to Council to 	<p>ACTION – NQBP to investigate lease responsibilities and ability to breach for failure of responsibility of Lot 52 at Mackay Marina.</p> <p>ACTION – NQBP</p>

	<p>investigate. Issue includes complexities around NQBP's lease of Lot 52 with Port Binnli and the marina esplanade. Build-up of sand on the footpath is causing public safety issues. AJ is attempting to investigate responsibilities.</p> <p>Question – AJ – Does NQBP have the ability to breach Port Binnli for failure to maintain the public access areas covered in the Lot 52 lease item 10? <i>Response – NQBP to investigate and provide response.</i></p> <p>Question – AJ - Can NQBP advise who would be responsible to relocate the public footpath out of the private owned property area? <i>Response – NQBP to investigate and provide response.</i></p> <p>Question - ES – Is the footpath on the nib wall a public access footpath? <i>Response – NQBP understands it's a Port Binnli maintenance access only, not a public footpath.</i></p> <p>Topic for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new suggestions noted. <p>Meeting closed 7.26pm.</p>	<p>to provide advice on relocation of footpath at Mackay Marina.</p>
<p>10. Next meeting date</p>	<p>Next meeting is Thursday 14 March 2024.</p>	