

## Mackay Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.15pm Tuesday 11 November 2025 – North Queensland Bulk Ports Connection Hub

### Chair:

Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

### Attendees:

<p><b>Community representatives</b> Neville Duncan Edan Stolberg Rod Moffat Roxanne Aprile Elizabeth Warren</p> <p><b>Yuwi Native Title Holder representative</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Recreational Group representative</b> Alison Jones</p> <p><b>Business representatives</b> Michael DePinto</p> <p><b>Environmental representative</b> Imogen Lindenberg – Mackay Conservation Group</p>	<p><b>Port Industry/PAG representatives</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Mackay Regional Council representative</b> Cr Ash-Lee Johnson</p> <p><b>NQBP representatives</b> CEO Brendan Webb General Manager Infrastructure &amp; Operations Tim Lewis Acting General manager Commercial &amp; Maritime Services Ian McGoldrick Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power Community Relationship Advisor Ange Julian</p> <p><b>Marine Safety Queensland representative</b> Craig Longmuir</p> <p><b>Guests</b> Member for Mackay Nigel Dalton MP</p>
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**Apologies:** NQBP's Odette Langham, Aaron Wood – Smit Lamnalco, Bronwin Tonga, Maree Sturdy – Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Tonga - Daltugs, Wayne Mabin, Melanie Laas, Steve Fisher.

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome to Country, meeting open and agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting opened at 5.15pm</li> <li>Community Reference Group members were welcomed by Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb.</li> <li>An Acknowledgment of Country was provided by Brendan.</li> </ul>	
2. Welcome and introductions	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to Member for Mackay Nigel Dalton MP.</li> <li>Welcome to Ian McGoldrick who is acting General Manager Commercial and Maritime Services, on behalf of Darren Brownsey.</li> <li>We also welcome our new Community Relations Advisor Ange Julian to her first CRG meeting.</li> <li>Apologies were recorded from NQBP's Odette Langham, Aaron Wood – Smit Lamnalco, Bronwin Tonga, Maree Sturdy – Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Tonga - Daltugs, Wayne Mabin, Melanie Laas and Steve Fisher.</li> </ul>	
3. Conflict of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around conflicts of interest was held and Conflict of Interest register reviewed.</li> <li>No other concerns were raised.</li> <li>No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting.</li> </ul>	
4. Actions Register	<p><b>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 10 actions from the last meeting, eight of these have been closed.</li> <li>The remaining two actions will be touched on during the meeting.</li> </ul>	
5. CEO update	<p><b>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brendan advised of appointment of Grant Gilfillan as Board Chair of NQBP and new Board Directors; Melinda Hashimoto, Lachlan Millar and Kelly Newton as Directors (3 October).</li> <li>Brendan welcomed new Directors and continuing Director Monica McKendry.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledged outgoing Chair Jane McTaggart and outgoing Directors Andrea Ranson, Tony Mooney, Lynn Smart and Jorgen Gullestrup.</li> </ul>	
6. NQBP infrastructure and operations	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb and Tim Lewis, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations</b></p> <p><b>North Wall Recreational Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you to all the CRG members who were able to attend the official opening in October.</li> <li>Stage 2 planning underway: this will include a 130m revetment wall and improved beach access (including emergency response). The design process is about to kick off, construction targeted for late 2026 pending tidal works approvals.</li> <li>NQBP participated in Great Barrier Reef Clean Up on 18 Oct at North Wall with Mackay Regional Council and Save Our North Wall group; small amount of rubbish collected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Southern Breakwater update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NQBP has made further progress on the action items for the Southern Breakwater.</li> <li>This includes working closely with Mackay Regional Council on road reserve access and relevant design codes.</li> <li>Discussions continue to find practical solution for all stakeholders.</li> <li>The update included estimated costs and timings on the proposed safety controls while acknowledging it has been a lengthy process due to the complexities of issues.</li> <li>CRG member Rod Moffat provided an update. He engaged the Qld Police Minister at Community Cabinet, follow-up discussions underway on issues including policy reform, fixed cameras, and night curfew.</li> <li>Member for Mackay Nigel Dalton MP confirmed he had requested mobile noise detector; TMR can only test at approved facilities (not roadside) - further correspondence planned.</li> </ul> <p><b>Marina Footpath Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JMAC awarded construction tender; works expected to start early 2026.</li> <li>Designs previously shared with CRG.</li> <li>Communications plan being developed and will be rolled out before works commence.</li> <li>Lack of parking concern raised on entry into breakwater; NQBP advised footpath improvements will better connect to existing car parks along Mulherin Drive, however additional parking is not within NQBP's scope</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Breakwater Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual above/below water surveys conducted by external contractors using hydrographic and drone technology to create digital twin models.</li> <li>• Digital twins compared to identify changes, additional surveys after incidents or severe weather.</li> <li>• Divers engaged for visual checks when required.</li> </ul>	
7. NQBP commercial and maritime update	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</b></p> <p><b>Future Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on strengthening infrastructure for current trade and future opportunities.</li> <li>• Containerised cargo: improving efficiency and reliability.</li> <li>• Over-Size, Over-Mass cargo: expanding capability for heavy-lift logistics.</li> <li>• Sustainable fuels and future energy: preparing ports for alternative energy exports/imports.</li> <li>• Planned projects: Wharf 1 Extension and George Bell Drive Heavy Duty Laydown facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wharf 1 Extension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infill/expand Wharf 1 for oversized cargo and mobile harbour crane; improves efficiency and service capability.</li> </ul> <p><b>George Bell Drive Laydown Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to approvals; 13,000 m<sup>2</sup> heavy-duty concrete laydown area for container stacking (up to 5 high full, 7 high empty), 48 reefer slots, and capacity for 70,000 TEUs per annum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sale of NQBP Airport Land</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQBP is selling two non-strategic parcels (~20ha) near Mackay Airport.</li> <li>• Multiple offers received; best and final submissions sought.</li> <li>• Club interest for sporting fields noted.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NQBP intends to retain sale funds for community projects subject to Board/Minister approval.</li> </ul>	
8. NQBP Environment update	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</b></p> <p><b>JCU Marine Science Partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched next phase of \$7.5M, five-year partnership with James Cook University for marine science, monitoring, habitat restoration, and Traditional Owner engagement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final draft of SEMP received from Alluvium; under review by NQBP.</li> <li>NQBP will share draft with Mackay Regional Council and Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation end Nov/early Dec.</li> <li>Additional workshop will be held with key stakeholders including CRG members at the end Dec/early 2026.</li> </ul>	
9. Community update	<p><b>Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship Emilie Power</b></p> <p><b>Recent sponsorships and donations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent successful applications / events include 2026 Mackay Marina Run, Pioneer Maritime Club Golf Day, Mackay Mayor's Charity Ball, Mackay NAIDOC Family Fun Day, 2025 Gold Coast to Mackay Yacht Race, 2025 Mackay Triathlon Festival and the 2025 Stella Maris Christmas Care Package Program.</li> <li>Applications for 2026-27 CRG sponsorship allocation will reopen for another round of funding in early 2026.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AEC conducted survey of 600 Mackay residents (May–June 2025) with 95% confidence level.</li> <li>Awareness: NQBP 63%, Mackay Port 59%, Hay Point 58%.</li> <li>94% expect NQBP to undertake community initiatives; 79% support boosting coal trade; 19% concerned about port impacts.</li> <li>Key issues: roads (27%), housing (21%), infrastructure (15%), recreation (15%), cost of living (14%).</li> <li>Opportunities identified for targeted engagement with younger demographics, women, and new residents.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media critical for communication; low recall of traditional media (13%).</li> <li>• Results of the report gives NQBP a better understanding of our community, areas of strength within our community engagement strategy, and a roadmap for improvements to be considered.</li> </ul> <p><b>NQBP Community Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 70 applications received for FY25–26, a 30% increase on previous years; supports projects across NQBP ports aligned with strategic themes and diversity goals. Successful applicants announced late Nov.</li> </ul> <p><b>CRG Feedback Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November meeting is final for 2025; surveys to be sent post-meeting to inform 2026 content and Terms of Reference</li> </ul>	
10. General Business	<p><b>Marine Safety Queensland (Craig Longmuir)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyclone season reminder; QLD disaster dashboard available online.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mackay Regional Council (Cr Ash-Lee Johnson)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited vehicle access reinstated at East Point.</li> </ul> <p><b>Member for Mackay (Nigel Dalton)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans grant closes 14 Nov; Multicultural grant closes 13 Dec (ACTION: send link).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mackay Conservation Group (Imogen Lindenberg)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation consultation on TMR Port Access Road open until 13 Nov.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> – Neville – Can we be provided with some information on NQBP's future planning for climate change (history of changes over time and into future).  <b>Response</b> – <i>To be added as an agenda item in 2026 (ACTION)</i></p> <p><b>Question</b> – What is NQBP's position on the petition for the boating car park?</p>	<p>ACTION - Send link for Multicultural grant to all CRG.</p> <p>ACTION - Information on NQBP's future planning for climate change to be added as agenda item 2026.</p>

	<b>Response</b> – <i>The CEO and Chair met with the petition organisers during the recent Community Cabinet meeting. They have been advised that under the current Master Plan for the port the area they are seeking to use is designated as Port, Industry and Commerce precinct which supports port operations, commodity handling, industry, port-related commercial activities and other related development. Recreational boating facilities are not consistent with this designation. In addition, the area is within the regulated port security boundary. As we've discussed, this area is earmarked for key future trade opportunities. We have provided briefings to the Member for Mackay and the relevant Ministerial departments.</i>	
<b>11.</b> Next meeting date	<b>Next meeting is Wednesday 4 March 2026</b>	
<b>12.</b> Meeting closed	<b>Meeting closed at 7.13pm</b>	