

Bowen and Abbot Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.30pm Tuesday 15 July 2025 – Bowen Community Centre

Chair:

Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

Attendees:

Recreational representatives N/A	Port Industry Representatives Kate Mee - APO Damien Dederer - APO Clint Mason - Engage Marine
Community representatives Richard Roberts Lorraine Maltby Stephanie Cora - Bowen Community Centre	NQBP Representatives Brendan Webb Darren Brownsey Emilie Power Julie Keane James Miller
Business representatives N/A	MSQ Representative Alex Cramb – (Strategy & Planning - Boat Harbours)
Environmental Representatives N/A	Guests Nick Nalder – Maritime Safety Queensland
Whitsunday Regional Council representative Jonathan Cutting	
Juru Enterprise Limited N/A	
Youth representative Emma Stark – Bowen State High School	

Apologies: Mayor Ry Collins Whitsunday Regional Council, Tim Lewis NQBP, Odette Langham NQBP, Bradley Stout Juru Enterprises, Matt Bowkett Engage Marine, Glenda Robertson, Cheryl Bullemor – NQCYC, Donna Turner – NQ Dry Tropics, Mark Smith – NQXT, James Gilmour

- Gilmour Space, David Paddon – Horseshoe Bay Café, Tony Bale (Chamber of Commerce), Max Haste – Area Manager (Townsville - Waterway Operations)

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome to Country, meeting open, agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting opened at 5.35pm Community Reference Group members were welcomed by Chair/NQBP CEO, Brendan Webb. An Acknowledgment of Country was provided by Brendan. 	
2. Welcome and introductions	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies were recorded from Mayor Ry Collins Whitsunday Regional Council, Tim Lewis NQBP, Odette Langham NQBP, Bradley Stout Juru Enterprises, Matt Bowkett Engage Marine, Glenda Robertson, Cheryl Bullemor – NQCYC, Donna Turner – NQ Dry Tropics, Mark Smith – NQXT, James Gilmour - Gilmour Space, David Paddon – Horseshoe Bay Café, Tony Bale (Chamber of Commerce) and Max Haste – Area Manager (Townsville - Waterway Operations). 	
3. Conflict of Interest	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion around conflicts of interest was held and Conflict of Interest register reviewed. No concerns were raised. No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting. 	
4. Actions Register	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All actions from the previous meeting were closed out. 	
5. CEO update	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of NQBP's work in our four port communities was provided. Includes community infrastructure projects, corporate and community sponsorship, support of seafarers' welfare. 	

<p>6. Infrastructure and operations update</p>	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <p>Bowen Jetty project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction is on track to commence in 2027, with completion expected by the end of 2028, subject to environmental approval processes. • We're actively progressing the procurement of contractors and consulting services for the reference design and engineering services, as well as geotechnical investigations. • We're also progressing the baseline environmental studies with JCU installing sound logging devices and conducting megafauna surveys which Juru are assisting with. • There will also be some seagrass monitoring next week using both vessels and helicopters to capture existing meadows, Juru are also involved in this. • Recruitment of a new Project Manager is underway and progressing well. <p>Question - When is the demolition of the existing jetty occurring?</p> <p><i>Answer – No confirmed date at this stage. Ideally to reduce mobilisation costs we would like to do this just before the construction works.</i></p> <p>Question – Could the timber piles be re-used in a WRC park, or the redundant concrete be used in the seabed for fish habitat?</p> <p><i>Answer – We are considering retention of the piles as part of the project. These are things that will be investigated further.</i></p> <p>Towage infrastructure solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing tug wharf at Bowen Wharf is approaching the end of its economical service life and is planned to be demolished as part of the Bowen Wharf project. • The tugs servicing Abbot Point will move from Bowen Wharf in 2026 until permanent towage infrastructure is in place. • NQBP is preparing a Business Case exploring all long-term towage infrastructure options in line with the State Government's Business Case Development Framework. • The business case process identifying and endorsing a preferred option is expected to be completed in late 2026. • As part of this process, NQBP has engaged consultancy Scyne to carry out a detailed location and options analysis. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are also working with Engage Marine to identify an initial towage solution for refuelling, maintenance and crew transfers. <p>Bowen Jetty maintenance and operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deck repairs are scheduled for next week (21 July). The jetty will need to be closed for one week to allow the works to happen safely. We are replacing with a non-slip material for approx. 100 metres. There will also need to be at least one additional closure to finalise the works. <p>Question – How will these closures be communicated to the public?</p> <p><i>Answer – NQBP’s media and communications team will roll out a communications plan including an e-newsletter update, social media, radio ads, signage etc. If CRG members are also able to assist with the distribution of information that would also be appreciated.</i></p> <p>Maintenance and operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abbot Point Road reseal project is now complete. Talisman Sabre exercise is being held in and around Bowen this week. NQBP continues to support Gilmour Space operations. 	
7. Environment update	<p>Presented by Indigenous Programs Manager, Julie Keane</p> <p>Pest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of wild dogs have been received around the Abbot Point area. NQBP installed some monitoring stations on NQBP land and while wild dog numbers were low, a trapper was engaged to investigate further. A small number of dogs were found, however NQBP will continue this program on a semi-regular basis. An aerial pig shoot is also coming up next week in conjunction with the port terminal operators and Whitsunday Regional Council. <p>Ambient Marine Monitoring Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NQBP has had an ambient marine monitoring program for more than 25 years around Abbot Point through our partnership with JCU. 	ACTION – NQBP to check site bulletin distribution for APO reps.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes seagrass, coral and water quality. • These studies help us understand conditions and track trends over time. • All the reports and live dashboards are publicly available on NQBP's website. <p>Abbot Point Master Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbot Point is declared as one of Queensland's priority ports. • TMR develops Master Plans for each of the priority ports, Abbot Point's was completed in 2023. • The Master Plan identifies areas of land available for future development, as well as environmental reserves. • Within the Master Plan there are several Priority Management Measures listed. • NQBP has been funded by the Coordinator General's office and Economic Development Queensland with one of these measures - a coordinated management strategy for Abbot Point (not just the port). • Step one of this strategy is to develop an environmental and cultural values management plan for the area. This plan will capture all the previous studies and reports that have been completed over the years and assess and address any identified gaps. NQBP is working with Juru to assist with this process. • The outcome will be a long-term management strategy. If a new proponent looks to develop at Abbot Point, they will be able to use the existing studies as part of their environmental approval process, reducing approval timeframes. <p>Question - When there is a proponent and new infrastructure needs to be constructed, who pays? First in first pays?</p> <p><i>Answer – There are many models that can be worked through, but none are in place at this stage.</i></p>	
8. Indigenous Program	<p>Presented by Indigenous Programs Manager, Julie Keane</p> <p>Education Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP has had a Reconciliation Action Plan in place since 2018. • We have partnerships with JCU and CQU to offer scholarships and bursaries. • We also partner with stakeholders such as Cowboys House and Feros Care to host career fairs and open days with our port partners. 	

	Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP partners with Juru Enterprise Limited (JEL) to undertake turtle monitoring along Eastern and Dingo Beaches at Port of Abbot Point during the nesting season. • 11 local JEL staff are also employed to assist NQBP with our weed and pest management. • We're hoping to build their capacity in this area so they can assist us with larger projects in the future. • JEL also assists NQBP with other land management activities such as revegetation projects, fire management and slashing. 	
9. Commercial and Maritime Services	Presented by General Manager Commercial and Maritime Services, Darren Brownsey Proponent ready <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP have spent about a year working with Ark Energy as a future proponent for export of hydrogen at Abbot Point. • Ark have advised they are expecting a five-year delay to this project while they focus on solar and wind as a priority. • More water and power are two key assets that need to be unlocked at Abbot Point. • NQBP regularly assists Trade Investment Queensland and Economic Development Queensland with industry and stakeholder engagement, helping to coordinate proponent and partnership collaboration. 	
10. Community update	Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship, Emilie Power Annual CRG sponsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to CRG members who nominated projects for the CRG sponsorship allocation. • Successful sponsorship recipient was Bowen State High School for the upcoming Mindfulness Market being held in October. • A new round of funding will be available for this financial year. Details to come on this. Recent sponsorships and donations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Bowen Multicultural Festival, Don River Dash, Whitsunday Mayor's Charity Ball and GEMFM. 	

	NQBP Community Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reopen in the coming months. CRG members are encouraged to distribution information to their networks. • \$100k will be available across NQBP's four ports. • Successful applicants from Bowen in last year's round included Bowen Museum and Historical Society, Port Dennison Sailing Club, Bowen Flexicare, Bowen Community Centre and Murroona Gardens. • Steph Cora gave an outline of the projects completed by the Bowen Community Centre. 	
11. General business	Maritime Safety Queensland (Alex Cramb) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSQ is responsible for eight state boat harbours which came across to MSQ around five years ago. • MSQ has been progressively rolling out Master Plans for each boat harbour. • Bowen Harbour's Master Plan was due to be developed from mid-2026. • The Queensland Government has just committed additional funding (\$13.5M) to fast-track the Boat Harbour Master Plans. • Next steps will be to investigate how / when Bowen Harbour Master Plan can be moved forward. • NQBP and WRC will share information from recent community consultation projects to feed into MSQ consultation process. <p>Comment – NQBP and WRC community consultation were conducted very well and MSQ should look to maintain this level of consultation.</p> Whitsunday Regional Council (Jonathan Cutting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation on the Bowen Foreshore Master plan was completed between March to April 2025. • 135 contributions were received and 9 key stakeholder interviews were conducted. • Results of consultation can be found on WRC's Your Say website. • https://yoursay.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/ • Johnathon outlined some of the key findings of the community consultation including strong support for Council to advocate for and support private development within the Foreshore and Harbour and a desire to prioritise activation of the Foreshore and Harbour to create vibrancy, improve amenity and boost visitor experience. 	ACTION –Bowen Foreshore Master Plan community consultation information to be shared with CRG.

	General Business None raised.	
12. Next meeting	Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 11 November 2025	
13.	Meeting closed at 7.05pm	