

Mackay Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.15pm Wednesday 15 July 2026 – North Queensland Bulk Ports Connection Hub

Chair:

NQBP Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power

Attendees:

Community representatives Neville Duncan Rod Moffat Wayne Mabin Edan Stolberg Yuwi Native Title Holder representative N/A Recreational Fishing Group representative Alison Jones Business representatives Michael DePinto Maree Sturdy Environmental representative Martin Griffin – Mackay Conservation Group Steve Fisher – Mackay District Turtle Watch	Port Industry/PAG representatives Aaron Wood Mackay Regional Council representative Cr Ash-Lee Johnson NQBP representatives General Manager Infrastructure & Operations Tim Lewis Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power Community Relationship Advisor Ange Julian Senior Manager Environment & Sustainability Renee McGlashan Maritime Safety Queensland representative Craig Longmuir, Regional Harbour Master
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Apologies: Bronwin Tonga, Imogen Lindenberg and Wayne Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Darren Brownsey and Brendan Webb.

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Acknowledgement of Country, meeting open and agenda	- Meeting opened at 5.18pm - Community Reference Group members were welcomed by Chair NQBP Senior Advisor Emilie Power - An Acknowledgment of Country was provided by Emilie	
2. Welcome and introductions	Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationships (Chair), Emilie Power - Welcome to NQBP's Renee McGlashan and Martin Griffin, proxy for Imogen Lindenberg Mackay Conservation Group. - Apologies were recorded from Brendan Webb, Bronwin Tonga, Imogen Lindenberg, Wayne Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Darren Brownsey.	
3. Conflict of interest	Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationships (Chair), Emilie Power - Discussion around conflicts of interest was held and Conflict of Interest register reviewed. - No other concerns were raised. - No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting.	
4. Actions Register	Presented by Chair and NQBP Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power - There were six actions from the last meeting, four of these have been closed. - The remaining two actions will be touched on during the meeting.	
5. NQBP infrastructure and operations	Presented by Tim Lewis, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations Marina Esplanade Works Stage 1 works are nearing completion, with Stage 2 to widen the shared pedestrian pathway down to the roundabout due to commence soon. Communications will be rolled out to residents on Breakwater Access Road	

	Southern Breakwater • Tender for Stage 1 safety improvements is being prepared, with construction expected to commence in late 2026. These works include line-marking, raised kerbing and updated signage. Some impact to public access during the works is expected, this will be communicated once the work plan and timing has been finalised. • Progress continues on actions from the Southern Breakwater Safety Review, including procurement of traffic monitoring cameras and stakeholder engagement. Comment – Rod Moffat – Requested an update on the outcomes of the recent Southern Breakwater community consultation. Response – <i>Thank you to those CRG members who met with consultants Articulous recently. Articulous will continue to facilitate additional engagement between NQBP, CRG members, other stakeholders (such as Queensland Police Service and Mackay Regional Council) and the broader community. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.</i> Comment – Members – Suggested the new variable message signs be used to communicate access restrictions and safety messages. Response – <i>Messaging for the signs is currently being developed.</i> Business and Community Precinct Initiative • NQBP is investigating whether the Queensland Government's Business and Community Precinct initiative could be applied to the Mackay Marina precinct inclusive of the Southern Breakwater. Old Mulherin Park • Upgrades to Old Mulherin Park are progressing, including a new amenities block, playground replacement and landscaping works. • Construction is expected to commence in September 2026, subject to approvals. Mt Bassett Lookout • Concept designs are being finalised for a public lookout and amenity upgrades.	
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	Comment – Members – Suggested opportunities to maximise viewing areas and increase tree planting as part of the lookout upgrade. Container Depot • Construction is progressing, with completion expected around September/October 2026. • Operational preparations are underway ahead of opening Question – Alison Jones – Asked when the facility is expected to become operational. Response – <i>Operations are expected to begin around September/October 2026 following completion and testing.</i> Question – Mick DePinto – Asked about commercial interest in the facility. Response – <i>Strong interest has been received across a range of industries, with customers expected to commit once the facility is operational.</i> Question – Martin Griffin – Asked whether the container depot project relies on the Mackay Port Access Road. Response – <i>No, the container depot project is independent of the Mackay Port Access Road.</i>	
6. NQBP commercial and maritime update	Presented by Tim Lewis, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations Trade update • The Port of Mackay handled 3.5 million tonnes of trade during 2025–26, an increase on the previous financial year. • Breakbulk trade more than doubled compared with 2024–25.	Action – Provide CRG members with a link to the Port Binnli

	- Increased fuel imports supported a reliable fuel supply for regional businesses and communities. - Strong grain and refined sugar exports reflected continued demand for Central Queensland agricultural products. Accelerating Fuel Infrastructure Program The Ports of Mackay and Abbot Point have been included in the Queensland Government's Accelerating Fuel Infrastructure Program. Question – Steve Fisher – Asked whether the Accelerating Fuel Infrastructure Program was focused on additional fuel storage. Response – <i>Opportunities may include additional fuel storage or refining, particularly at the Port of Abbot Point, subject to industry interest and relevant approvals.</i> Question – Alison Jones – Asked where additional fuel storage capacity could be accommodated at the Port of Mackay. Response – <i>Existing capacity is available at the Port of Mackay, with additional land also available should future demand arise.</i> Question – Steve Fisher – Asked whether a refinery could be established at the Port of Abbot Point given it's in a World Heritage Area. Response – <i>Any proposal would be subject to the relevant planning and environmental approval processes.</i>	development information.
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	RORO Vessel - The Höegh Australis is scheduled to visit the Port of Mackay in August carrying heavy machinery cargo. Vessel Maintenance Facility - An Expression of Interest process is underway to identify a long-term commercial operator for the proposed Vessel Maintenance Facility. - The facility would support a range of commercial and industrial vessels operating across the region. Comment – Aaron Wood – Noted the current shortage of vessel maintenance facilities in Australia, with some operators required to undertake maintenance overseas. New Mackay Office - Work continues to identify a new Mackay office location beyond 2029. - Port Binnli has received Development Approval from Mackay Regional Council for their redevelopment and expansion plans.	
7. NQBP Environment update	Presented by Senior Manager Environment & Sustainability Renee McGlashan Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) - The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan has now been finalised, with a letter of support recently received from DETSI. - NQBP provided an update on several of the short-term actions listed in the SEMP: - Annual and event-based drone surveys will begin to improve monitoring of beach changes. - Revetment wall and beach access plans are underway and in concept design.	Action – Include slide on SEMP priorities and action progression in next CRG presentation. Action – Provide CRG members with final SEMP.

	- It was further noted that longer-term actions outlined in the SEMP (i.e. sand scraping and sand sourcing studies) require further discussions with Mackay Regional Council as the beach itself is not under NQBP jurisdiction. North Wall Revetment and Beach Access - Concept designs have been completed, with procurement underway for a consultant to deliver detailed designs. - The project will include a new rock wall and beach access ramp to improve coastal protection and maintenance access. - Construction is expected to provide up to 5,000 cubic metres of once-off beach nourishment. Comment – Steve Fisher – Expressed strong concerns that the meeting update did not include information on longer term commitments or actions from the SEMP. Steve mentioned that part of the process for the SEMP was addressing environmental concerns i.e. sea turtle nesting habitat. Steve requested that the finalised SEMP be distributed to the CRG. Comment – Mick DePinto – Suggested future planning should identify possible sand sources, timing and costs. Response – The current works focus on measures within NQBP's control. Longer-term beach nourishment options, costs and responsibilities require further discussion with relevant parties. Environmental Management System Recertification - NQBP's Environmental Management System has been recertified to ISO 14001 until 2029. - No major or minor non-compliances were identified, with six opportunities for improvement recorded.	
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8. Community update	Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship Emilie Power Recent Sponsorships and Donations - Recent sponsorship and donation recipients include 2026 Mackay Marina Run, 2026 Bowen Multicultural Festival, 2026 Sarina Show Society, 2026 West Mackay May Fair, FOGS (Former Origin Greats) Junior Rugby League. Mackay Marina Run - NQBP continued its long-term support of the Mackay Marina Run and sponsored the Corporate Challenge for the first time. - More than 35 staff and family members participated across the event. - Support also included permits, site access and event preparation. Community Fund Update - Recipients were announced at NQBP's recognition event in June 2026. 13 organisations across Mackay, Hay Point, Bowen and Weipa shared in \$100,000. - Funding will support initiatives focused on youth engagement, mental health awareness, environmental education, accessibility and community participation. - This year's program attracted the strongest response ever with 84 applications. CRG Sponsorship Allocation - CRG members have an annual allocation of \$5,000 for community donations and sponsorships. - The 2025-26 recipient was The Pine Islet Lighthouse Preservation Society. - Nominations for the 2026-27 sponsorship will open in November. Facility Access - NQBP has launched a new Facility Access page on its website providing real-time updates on the status of ports and community facilities.
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	The page provides a single source of information on access impacts resulting from weather, operational activity and maintenance works.	
9. General Business	General Business Mackay Regional Council (Cr Ash-Lee Johnson) - NA Maritime Safety Queensland (Craig Longmuir) - Work is underway to re-establish a Port Welfare Committee. - Pilotage licensing reforms, simulator training and derelict vessel removals continue. - Port of Mackay will provide contingency support for delivery of the new Hay Point ship loader if required due to weather. - The Gold Coast to Mackay Yacht Race will be held later this month, including the introduction of the Harbour Master Cup. Mackay Conservation Group - NA Mackay and District Turtle Watch (Steve Fisher) - An increase in deceased or malnourished juvenile turtles is expected on local beaches over winter, with members encouraged to report sightings. General Business	Action – Cr Johnson to investigate MRC's plans for debris removal at Harbour Beach.

	Comment – Wayne Mabin – Raised concerns regarding timber debris along Harbour Beach. Comment – Edan – Supported the concerns and encouraged Mackay Regional Council to inspect the area and undertake debris removal works. Comment – Ash-Lee Johnson – Will raise the Harbour Beach timber debris concerns with Mackay Regional Council. Comment – Craig Longmuir – Encouraged members to avoid sick or injured seabirds and report sightings. There are currently no confirmed cases of avian influenza in Queensland.	
10. Next meeting date	Next meeting is Wednesday 18 November 2026	
11. Meeting closed	Meeting closed at 7.35pm	