

## Mackay Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.15pm Thursday 17 July 2025 – Volunteer Marine Rescue Base

### Chair:

Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

### Attendees:

<p><b>Community representatives</b> Neville Duncan Edan Stolberg Rod Moffat</p> <p><b>Yuwi Native Title Holder representative</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Recreational Group representative</b> Wayne Mabin</p> <p><b>Business representatives</b> Michael DePinto</p> <p><b>Environmental representative</b> Steve Fisher – MDTW Imogen Lindenberg – MCG</p>	<p><b>Port Industry/PAG representatives</b> Aaron Wood– Smit Lamnalco Melanie Laas, RIN (via Teams)</p> <p><b>Mackay Regional Council representative</b> Cr Ash-Lee Johnson</p> <p><b>NQBP representatives</b> Brendan Webb Tim Lewis Emilie Power Odette Langham</p> <p><b>MSQ representative</b> Craig Longmuir</p> <p><b>Guests</b> N/A</p>
---	--

**Apologies:** NQBP's Darren Brownsey and Simon Nash, Alison Jones, Bronwin Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Maree Sturdy – Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Tonga, Daltugs and Elizabeth Warren

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome to Country, meeting open and agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting opened at 5.18pm</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>Introductions – Craig Longmuir, newly appointed Regional Harbour Master, MSQ.</li> <li>Apologies were recorded from NQBP's Darren Brownsey and Simon Nash, Alison Jones, Bronwin Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Maree Sturdy – Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Tonga, Daltugs and Elizabeth Warren.</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>Melanie Laas advised her employment details have changed and need to be updated.</li> <li>No other concerns were raised.</li> <li>No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting.</li> </ul>	ACTION - NQBP to follow up outstanding Conflict of Interest forms
4. CEO update	<p><b>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</b></p> <p>Actions Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 12 actions from the last meeting, 8 of these have been closed.</li> <li>One action is being progressed through the broader Southern Breakwater review process. One we will hold over for another meeting (breakwater structure management).</li> <li>One is for a few members to complete or update their Conflict of Interest forms.</li> <li>All the other actions we will touch on during our meeting tonight.</li> <li>Overview of NQBP's recent community survey was given. Results to be shared with CRG at a future meeting.</li> </ul>	ACTION – NQBP to share community survey results at November meeting



<p>5. NQBP infrastructure and operations</p>	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb and Tim Lewis, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations</b></p> <p><b>North Wall improvement project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Wall project is now underway with contractor JMAC Constructions onsite since late May 2025.</li> <li>• Thank you to the CRG members who were involved in the official announcement with Minister for Finance Ros Bates, Member for Mackay Nigel Dalton and Member for Mirani Glen Kelly in attendance alongside NQBP representatives.</li> <li>• Project is progressing well and is expected to be completed before the end of the year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Harbour Beach clean up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In May 2025, NQBP led a major debris removal operation at Mackay's Harbour Beach following damage from tropical weather events.</li> <li>• NQBP worked with Mackay Regional Council and Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club to facilitate access.</li> <li>• In four days, more than 55 truckloads of material were cleared across 680 metres of coastline.</li> </ul> <p>Comment - Thank you to NQBP for cleaning up the beach and restoring access, great job.</p> <p><b>Southern Breakwater update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQBP has made progress on the action items for the Southern Breakwater.</li> <li>• For this meeting we have updated the overall Master list with the latest timings and costs.</li> <li>• We have also added an additional slide which outlines all the actions that have been undertaken since our last meeting.</li> <li>• For the Marina esplanade footpath works – we are still progressing through the legal agreements with Mackay Regional Council and Port Binnli. There has been a lot to work through including but not limited to tenure permits and maintenance agreements which are quite complex. The agreement has been finalised with the private landowner. Meetings were held with the Mackay Mayor and A/CEO and the Member for Mackay to discuss this project and other issues and seek their support. The final design of the footpath works was completed, and the contract tender was issued. An on-site meeting for potential contractors was held this week. The tender closes on 29 July, however, works will not start until the legal agreements are in place. A communications plan will be rolled out.</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have also received the final draft of the Traffic Engineering Assessment and have approval from the NQBP Board to proceed with a detailed design. We will outline some of the items in detail to CRG members tonight (new speed bumps, additional lighting, speed bump placement and design, traffic delineation etc).</li> <li>• Procurement is progressing on the AI cameras, the gate and the electronic noticeboard.</li> <li>• The gate and electronic noticeboard also require input and approvals from Mackay Regional Council as they are located within the road reserve under their management.</li> <li>• A new static sign has also been drafted and will be presented tonight for comment.</li> <li>• From a community point of view, we met with the CRG Marina representatives and sought their feedback on the draft Traffic Engineering Assessment, and their feedback was included in the final draft. Thank you to those that attended.</li> <li>• We have met with the three boating clubs who are being displaced from the area to discuss a potential temporary storage solution for them. Investigations on this are still underway.</li> <li>• During our meeting with the Member for Mackay and Mayor and CEO we discussed the behavioural issues occurring on the Southern Breakwater. Both parties noted that these issues are being experienced regularly across the region.</li> <li>• We asked for support from QPS and Council to conduct visits to the area and act on any infringements on road traffic matters (QPS), or local laws (Council).</li> <li>• It was suggested by the Member for Mackay that NQBP and local residents request a Mobile Police Beat for the area. This may help increase the presence of local police and raise the profile of the issues with QPS.</li> <li>• We have since been in contact with QPS to request this to occur at the Southern Breakwater regularly on a Thursday night.</li> <li>• We are still considering the implementation of a vehicle curfew on the Southern Breakwater.</li> <li>• As noted previously, a curfew may assist in managing some of the disruptive behaviours, however it also has its own challenges from a community impact point of view. It's beloved not only by the broader community but also from a tourism perspective.</li> <li>• We have been advised that QPS do not receive regular 000 calls about behaviour on the Southern Breakwater.</li> <li>• We encourage everyone to report illegal behaviours to 000 when they occur immediately. This not only gets a response from QPS but also elevates the issues with them to prioritise regularly patrols.</li> <li>• We will need the CRGs support in implementing the solutions and curfew.</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As you can see it is very complex topic and we continue to make our best efforts to consider every angle and option to get the balance right.</li> </ul> <p>Question – With the design of the speed bumps and spacing, how will cyclists manage?  <i>Answer – The serious cyclists will be encouraged to use the roadway, not the pedestrian lane. The only cyclists in the pedestrian lane should be small children under the watch of their parents, or those who are not confident to ride on the roadway.</i></p> <p>Comment - Vehicles might also use the space closer to pedestrian lane to avoid using the speed bumps (using one tyre on the road, one on the speed bump).  <i>Response – Yes, but there will be the delineation to stop them from entering the pedestrian lane.</i></p> <p>Comment – The width of the lanes can't be changed without widening the breakwater itself or removing vehicles completely.</p> <p>Comment – There still needs to be consideration for safety when the breakwater is open to all, and then the impact at night if vehicles aren't there, when pedestrians and cyclists have access to whole roadway. The risks change but are still there and need to be managed.</p> <p>Question – Can you explain the AI cameras and people's right to privacy?  <i>Answer – Yes, privacy considerations is one of the reasons why we must take the time to undertake the legal review and get the correct framework in place. The cameras will give the Police better clarity on people and vehicles, and we can provide the footage to them as needed, however it will not be calibrated data, and won't be able to be used to enforce speeding fines etc.</i></p> <p>Question – The proposed turnaround facility looks great. It might be quite close to the back fence of the neighbours in Marina Beach Parade, they will need to be consulted.  <i>Answer – Yes, this will be considered as part of the community consultation. We will also revisit the proposed facility and see if any modifications can be made. The turnaround facility will be in the existing road reserve. It will not be a traditional roundabout and will have anti-hooring infrastructure to deter.</i></p> <p>Update – CRG member and Marina resident Rod Moffat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent meeting was held with Member for Mackay and QPS. They have advised that their speed cameras are calibrated to QPS standards and are focused on law and enforcement. NQBP's cameras will not be calibrated to the same level and are focused more on safety</li> </ul>	<p>ACTION – NQBP to send Mackay Police Station direct number to CRG members.</p> <p>ACTION – NQBP to send Mobile Police Beat website link to CRG members.</p>
--	---	---

	<p>concerns. QPS have advised they are only ones who can enforce or direct people on illegal behaviours. Council are also the only ones who can enforce local laws such as illegal parking. However, both entities do struggle with resourcing across the region. If immediate action is needed, residents must call 000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further discussion was had about police investigation testing teams who can spot test on illegal exhaust modifications etc, however there is only one of these teams that cover an area from Rockhampton to Townsville.</li> <li>• It is really up to the community, backed by NQBP to assist with the issues on the Southern Breakwater, but this is also a bigger issue than just the Southern Breakwater.</li> </ul> <p>Comment - A lot of people think that a curfew means that there would be a complete block to access. Comms will need to be tailored to ensure that people know pedestrians and cyclists can still use the breakwater.</p> <p><i>Answer – Yes, we acknowledge this. We need to work through our public consultation / communication campaign on this.</i></p>	
<p><b>6. NQBP commercial and maritime update</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</b></p> <p><b>Cruise ships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQBP continues to support Mackay Isaac Tourism (MIT) on their cruise ship strategy for the Port of Mackay.</li> <li>• MIT are working on the land-side offerings (tours etc) – a lot of business development is still required.</li> <li>• NQBP are currently working through a capability statement for the Port identifying any constraints and opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion occurred around the cruise ship industry and the difficulties that Mackay may face attracting cruise ships and the flow on impacts to residents and tourists. The cruise vessels being targeted for Mackay would need to be smaller, more boutique vessels to those that visit the Whitsundays.</p> <p><b>Container trade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQBP are working on the design of a container laydown area within the Port.</li> <li>• This would include the implementation of upgraded quarantine and biosecurity facilities, procedures, and measures to allow for importation of containers and mining tyres.</li> <li>• There are also additional requirements through Australian Border Force.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Question - Do you need a certain number of containers to justify the project?  <i>Answer – Yes. There’s currently enough business that’s been identified to justify the business case from both an import and export perspective.</i></p> <p>Question - Would you need to increase your maintenance dredging at Mackay for container ships or extension at Wharf 1?  <i>Answer – If we look to increase the berth at Wharf 1, this would probably be classed as capital dredging, as it would be new/additional to the current approvals in place for maintenance dredging of existing berth. This means it would need to go through a full approval process.</i></p> <p>Question - Where would capital dredging be placed?  <i>Answer – It’s too early in the process to tell. We need to complete the design works to understand what the extension of Wharf 1 would look like. As part of this work, we will need to look at the classification of the sediment that would need dredging and understand if it has any beneficial reuse options and work out what these options might be. As mentioned earlier, we would need to go through State and Federal permit approval processes to complete any additional dredging.</i></p> <p><b>DUKC in Mackay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DUKC, a dynamic underkeel clearance program, is being implemented incrementally at the Port of Mackay.</li> <li>• DUKC calculates the under-keel clearance of each ship in real-time as it travels, using ship modelling and real-time tidal info.</li> <li>• This helps the port with accurate data to plan safe shipping movements.</li> <li>• NQBP is also working with Maritime Safety Queensland on the installation of a new pile close to the Southern Breakwater entrance. The wave rider buoy equipment will be installed on this pile along with other measuring equipment to enable more accurate data.</li> </ul>	
7. NQBP Environment update	<p><b>Presented by Odette Langham, Senior Manager Environment</b></p> <p><b>Shoreline erosion management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year NQBP engaged Alluvium to assist NQBP to develop a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for North Harbour Beach to investigate concerns raised by community as part of the master planning process in relation to beach erosion and impacts to turtle nesting.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvium has completed the coastal process assessment to understand sediment transport processes in the area (erosion and accretion of sand along the beaches to the north and south).</li> <li>• Alluvium has also now completed the additional modelling of potential options and provided a high-level costs assessment for each option .</li> <li>• NQBP will hold another stakeholder workshop in August to discuss these results before the SEMP and implementation plan will be finalised. Details on this workshop will be shared soon, all interested CRG members are welcome to attend.</li> </ul> <p>Comment – Anecdotally it appears that the sand is travelling as far north as Shoal Point, not Lamberts Beach as shown on the model. It's possible that the shadowing is a lot longer than the coastal assessment is showing. For further discussion at stakeholder meeting with Alluvium.</p> <p>Comment - NQBP spends a lot of money maintaining port assets, this project should be seen no differently, NQBP should be investing to preserve the environment and community assets.</p> <p><b>Ambient Marine Monitoring Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQBP has an extensive ambient marine monitoring program as part of our JCU partnership.</li> <li>• This includes seagrass, coral (Slade, Round Top and Victor Islands) and marine water quality</li> <li>• The purpose is to understand condition and track trends over time.</li> <li>• Technical reports available on NQBP website</li> <li>• Live public dashboards are also available on NQBP website.</li> </ul> <p><b>Biosecurity / invasive pests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Port of Mackay is an international operating port and NQBP plays a role in detection and first response to any identified invasive pests.</li> <li>• NQBP also has eradication programs for feral animals (including wild dogs, pigs and foxes).</li> <li>• There will be a wild dog program conducted in Bedford's Paddock occurring in September.</li> </ul>	
8. Community update	<p><b>Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship Emilie Power</b></p> <p><b>CRG sponsorship allocation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to those CRG members who nominated projects for consideration.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The successful nomination was the Pine Islet Lighthouse Preservation Society who are undertaking a project to restore the lighthouse.</li> <li>Applications will reopen for another round of funding soon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent sponsorships and donations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent successful applications / events include Mackay Marina Run, Pioneer Maritime Club Golf Day, Mackay Mayor's Charity Ball, Mackay NAIDOC Family Fun Day and the upcoming Gold Coast to Mackay Yacht Race.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will reopen in the coming months. CRG members are encouraged to distribution information to their networks.</li> <li>\$100k will be available across NQBP's four ports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Connection Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NQBP's new Connection Hub is available free of charge to be booked by community groups and not-for-profit organisations for meetings and workshops.</li> <li>The booking process is being finalised and will be communicated more broadly soon.</li> </ul>	
9. General Business	<p><b>Mackay and District Turtle Watch – Steve Fisher</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sick and injured turtles may be on the rise during the winter months and can wash up on beaches. If you come across any, please report it to 1300 130 372 – there is also the QWildlife app you can download on your phone however please note the reports need to be logged at the actual location of the turtle. All data is good data and is useful recordkeeping.</li> </ul> <p><b>Request for future agenda items / information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global warming / sea level rise data</li> <li>Recent Bowen Jetty project update</li> </ul>	ACTION – Send Bowen Wharf newsletter to CRG members
10. Next meeting date	<b>Next meeting is Thursday 13 November 2025</b>	
11. Meeting closed	<b>Meeting closed at 7.45pm</b>	