

Bowen and Abbot Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.30pm Thursday 13 November 2025 – Bowen Community Centre

Chair:

Chair North Queensland Bulk Ports Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

Attendees:

Recreational representatives N/A	Port Industry Representatives Kate Mee – Abbot Point Operations Damien Dederer – Abbot Point Operations Clint Mason - Engage Marine
Community representatives Richard Roberts Stephanie Cora - Bowen Community Centre Glenda Robertson	NQBP Representatives CEO Brendan Webb Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power Community Relationship Advisor Ange Julian Indigenous Program Manager Julie Keane Port Supervisor, Bowen James Miller
Business representatives Barney Menzies – Chamber of Commerce	MSQ Representative Alex Cramb – (Strategy & Planning - Boat Harbours) Max Haste – (Townsville - Waterway Operations)
Environmental Representatives Karen Vidler (Via Teams)	Guests N/A
Whitsunday Regional Council representative N/A	
Juru Enterprise Limited N/A	
Youth representative N/A	

Apologies: Mayor Ry Collins Whitsunday Regional Council, Tim Lewis NQBP, Odette Langham NQBP, Bradley Stout Juru Enterprises (JEL) Matt Bowkett Engage Marine, Cheryl Bullemor – North Queensland Cruising Yacht Club (NQCYC) Donna Turner – NQ Dry Tropics, Mark

Smith – North Queensland Export Terminal (NQXT) James Gilmour - Gilmour Space, David Paddon – Horseshoe Bay Café, Lorraine Maltby and Stuart McDonnell NQBP.

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, Cheryl Bullemor – NQCYC, Donna Turner – NQ Dry Tropics, Mark Smith – NQXT, James Gilmour - Gilmour Space, David Paddon – Horseshoe Bay Café, Lorraine Maltby and Stuart McDonnell NQBP. Welcome to Barney Menzies from Chamber of Commerce who replaces Tony Bale as the representative. Karen Vidler (NQ Dry Tropics) via Teams and NQBP's new Community Relations Advisor Ange Julian to her first CRG meeting. 	
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"> Brendan advised of appointment of Grant Gilfillan as Board Chair of NQBP and new Board Directors Melinda Hashimoto, Lachlan Millar and Kelly Newton (3 October), Brendan welcomed new Directors and continuing Director Monica McKendry. Acknowledged outgoing Chair Jane McTaggart and outgoing Directors Andrea Ranson, Tony Mooney, Lynn Smart and Jorgen Gullestrup. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQBP will investigate hosting a Board meeting in Bowen in 2026 and will invite CRG members to an associated stakeholder event. • Senior leadership team met in Bowen for a Connected Leaders workshop at the new Flagstaff Hill venue. 	
6. Infrastructure	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <p>Bowen Jetty project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental studies: Seagrass and megafauna surveys completed; sediment, noise, and vibration assessments ongoing. • Reference Design: Awarded to WGA; design phase through mid-2026 to define scope, enable approvals, and refine cost/schedule. <p>Question - Can you please outline your expected local spend and jobs for the Bowen Jetty construction project?</p> <p><i>Answer - At this stage it is too early to determine, however at the next CRG we can present how we award tenders including the criteria and targets we use.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Senior Project Manager Stuart McDonnell and Senior Advisor Environment (Projects) Stefanie Palin. <p>Port of Abbot Point Towage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current: Three tugs service the port; two moored at Abbot Point, one at Bowen Wharf; refuelling and crew transfers occur at Bowen Wharf. • From 2027: Bowen tug wharf to be dismantled; NQBP preparing Business Case for sustainable towage solution. <p>Question - Why wasn't the commercial jetty and public jetty considered together as one project?</p> <p><i>Answer - The projects are separate from a commercial (safety/liability) point of view, but most importantly, the funding provided by the Government is specifically for the public jetty, not the commercial arm. NQBP has been given a letter of expectations on what the funds can be used for.</i></p>	<p>ACTION– present on how NQBP tenders are awarded including criteria and targets to March 2026 presentation.</p>

	Bowen Jetty Geotechnical Investigations – Presented by Project Engineer Daniel Harris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borehole drilling at causeway, wharf, and barge areas is occurring from 10 Nov for approximately one month; access will be maintained with marked detours. • Data will inform jetty design for safety, longevity, and sustainability. 	
7. Operations update	Presented by Port Supervisor, Bowen – James Miller Bowen Jetty maintenance and upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final temporary closure 10–13 Nov for deck work completed. Approximately 60m Fibre-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) decking and edge rail installed. Maintenance and operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled burn at Abbot Point completed with NQBP, JEL, APO, and partners following vegetation risk assessment. • Wild dog trapping in September removed nine dogs: aerial pig shoot scheduled for 19 Nov. 	
8. Environment update	Presented by Indigenous Programs Manager, Julie Keane Marine Science Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched next phase of \$7.5M, five-year partnership with James Cook University to advance marine science, monitoring, habitat restoration, and Traditional Owner engagement across NQBP ports. 	
9. Indigenous Program	Presented by Indigenous Programs Manager, Julie Keane Turtle Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring by Juru Enterprises from late Oct to 18 Dec along Eastern Beach for green and flatback turtles; two turtles and nine nests tagged, nests protected; satellite tag planned for nesting female. 	



	Caring for Country Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port of Abbot Point Master Plan includes priority management measure for Kaili Valley Wetland cultural values; long-term management plan developed with Juru People. 	
10. Community update	Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship, Emilie Power <p>Recent sponsorships and donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Don River Dash, Bowen Fishing Classic, Bowen Junior Golf 2026 Sponsorship. 2026-27 CRG \$5,000 donation process begins early 2026: members to nominate initiatives for shortlist in March. Funds paid before June 2026. Bowen High School Mental Health Awareness Week was 2025 recipient. <p>NQBP Community Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>CRG Feedback Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November meeting is final for 2025; surveys to be sent post-meeting to inform 2026 content and Terms of Reference. 	
11. General business	<p>Maritime Safety Queensland (Alex Cramb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment underway for Bowen State Harbour master planning project. <p>Maritime Safety Queensland (Max Haste)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation aids serviced in recent weeks. <p>Abbot Point Operations – (Damien Dederer & Kate Mee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation pre-wet season audit returned nil undertakings; Shiploader 2 back online after outage, replacement timeline extended to 2050; significant recruitment underway for professional roles. 	

	<p>Engage Marine – (Clint Mason)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing two local drivers for pilotage transfers; planning to nominate shipyard for tug maintenance. • Third Indigenous trainee nearing completion; all previous trainees transitioned to full-time roles. <p>Bowen Community Centre – (Stephanie Cora)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed first four accommodation units in QLD to house professionals. • QLD Neighbourhood Centre report: every \$1 of government funding generates \$6 value. • Outgrown current building; purchased new site to become “Community Hive,” seeking grants for fit-out. • Currently delivering 23 community programs. <p>Gilmour Space – (Luana Land)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully launched Eris in July with no environmental or infrastructure impact; thanked Bowen community for support. • Investigating anomaly and preparing for next sub-orbital rocket launch in March 2026. <p>General Business</p> <p>None raised.</p>	
12. Next meeting	Next meeting to be held on Thursday 5 March 2026	
13.	Meeting closed at 6.35pm	