

Mackay Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

5.15pm Wednesday 4 March 2026 – North Queensland Bulk Ports Connection Hub

Chair:

Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Webb

Attendees:

<p>Community representatives Neville Duncan Rod Moffat Wayne Mabin</p> <p>Yuwi Native Title Holder representative N/A</p> <p>Recreational Fishing Group representative Alison Jones</p> <p>Business representatives Michael DePinto Maree Sturdy</p> <p>Environmental representative Emma Barrett – Mackay Conservation Group</p>	<p>Port Industry/PAG representatives Aaron Wood</p> <p>Mackay Regional Council representative Cr Ash-Lee Johnson</p> <p>NQBP representatives CEO Brendan Webb General Manager Infrastructure & Operations Tim Lewis Senior Advisor Community Relationships Emilie Power Community Relationship Advisor Ange Julian Senior Manager Environment Odette Langham</p> <p>Maritime Safety Queensland representative NA</p> <p>Guests Brian and Lyn Osborn – Pine Islet Lighthouse NQBP Principal Advisor Strategy and Commercial – Liam Cullin</p>
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Apologies: Bronwin Tonga, Imogen Lindenberg and Wayne Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Darren Brownsey and Craig Longmuir.

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Acknowledgement of Country, meeting open and agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting opened at 5.15pm • Community Reference Group members were welcomed by Chair NQBP Chief Executive Officer, 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"> • Welcome to Brian and Lyn Osborn. • Welcome to NQBP's Liam Cullin. • Welcome to Emma Barrett, proxy for Imogen Lindenberg, Mackay Conservation Group. • Apologies were recorded from Bronwin Tonga, Imogen Lindenberg, Wayne Tonga, Roxanne Aprile, Darren Brownsey and Craig Longmuir. • About NQBP – a Queensland Government Owned Corporation managing the ports of Mackay, Hay Point, Abbot Point and Weipa. • The ports support regional industries, handle a significant proportion of Queensland's international trade and operate within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. • NQBP operates commercially on behalf of Queenslanders and is accountable to its shareholding Ministers. • NQBP's shareholding Ministers are the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. • Overview provided on the role of the CRG as a two-way engagement forum providing community insight to inform NQBP decision-making. • Members were encouraged to share information between the CRG and their community organisations and to contribute agenda items or feedback where relevant. • The importance of active participation and information sharing was noted. 	
3. Guest attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian and Lyn Osborn from Pine Islet Lighthouse gave a 10-minute presentation on the history of the lighthouse, recent awards won and the ongoing support that's needed. 	
4. Conflict of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

5. Actions Register	<p>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
6. CEO update	<p>Presented by Chair and NQBP CEO Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Mackay container depot project, construction commenced 27 January 2026 and completion expected late 2026. • Members discussed logistics considerations including road and rail capacity and potential inland port development. • Acknowledgment of outgoing apprentices and thank you to their mentors. • Welcome to NQBP 2026 apprentice intake, with apprentices now employed directly by NQBP. 	
7. NQBP infrastructure and operations	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb and Tim Lewis, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations</p> <p>Marina Esplanade Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction mobilisation commenced early March 2026 with works expected to be completed by May 2026 (weather permitting). • Project includes footpath realignment and upgrades, revetment wall with seating, access ramp, landscaping works, southern breakwater gate upgrade and installation of a Variable Message Sign (VMS). • CRG member Alison Jones thanked NQBP for progressing the works. • Members discussed traffic management during Southern Breakwater gate closures including signage. <p>Question – Rod – Is the turnaround still being constructed?</p> <p>Response – No. Following feedback from residents, the turnaround facility was reviewed in consultation with Mackay Regional Council (MRC). MRC agreed that the turnaround is not</p>	

required at this time. However, traffic conditions will continue to be monitored, and the turnaround could be reinstated in the future if any traffic issues or concerns arise.

Traffic Monitoring Cameras

- Tender process underway following technology updates.
- Cameras will help NQBP better understand traffic volumes and behaviour at the breakwater while complying with privacy requirements.

Question – How will illegal behaviours be addressed using the cameras?

Response - *Footage may be provided to Queensland Police upon their request where incidents occur and/or are reported.*

Old Mulherin Park

- Works expected to commence around end of financial year – includes new amenities block, lighting upgrades and landscaping.
- Maintenance works to playground soft fall surface also likely due to deterioration.
- A suggestion to relocate amenities closer to the boat ramp was discussed; NQBP advised this would require significant additional civil works and will not be considered as part of the project.

Port Land Use Planning

- NQBP currently updating Land Use Plans to align with the Queensland Government's Port of Mackay Master Plan.
- Preparation of the Statement of Proposal is underway with government consultation to follow.
- Public consultation expected mid-2026, with CRG members included in the process.

Climate Resilience Planning

- NQBP has completed a climate resilience risk assessment across all ports considering flooding, storm tide, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment confirmed ports are currently in a strong position with no urgent infrastructure upgrades required. • Climate resilience considerations will be incorporated into future infrastructure planning and asset renewals. 	
8. NQBP commercial and maritime update	<p>Presented by CEO (Chair), Brendan Webb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between July and December 2025, the Port of Mackay handled 2.016 million tonnes of trade. • Grain exports reached 265,431 tonnes, exceeding the previous financial year total. • Fertiliser imports remain strong at 52,551 tonnes. • Breakbulk trade has increased significantly with 14 vessel calls so far this financial year and over 60,000 freight tonnes handled to January 2026. 	
9. NQBP Environment update	<p>Presented by Senior Manager Environment Odette Langham</p> <p>Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project progressing through final stages following baseline investigations, coastal process assessment and options analysis. • Six management options were assessed. • Recommended approach combines sand nourishment and access ramp / rock wall upgrades. • Proposed nourishment would involve sourcing and placement of approximately 5,000m³ of sand across 250m of beach to establish a sand buffer and support dune stability and turtle nesting habitat. • Members discussed potential sand sources including the Pioneer River mouth; regulatory approvals would be required. • Some initial work on concept development for the rock wall and beach access has commenced. CRG members will be engaged for feedback on concept. 	ACTION - Continue engagement with stakeholders regarding the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan and circulate updates to CRG members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further consultation with Mackay Regional Council (and DETSI) is planned on the draft findings and recommendations and to understand what similar work is being undertaken by Council in the region. • The draft SEMP including recommendations will also need to be considered internally by NQBP and the Board • <p>Questions – Can you please provide further explanation of what beach nourishment would look like in practice.</p> <p>Response – <i>Beach nourishment would involve sourcing suitable sand from an external site to be placed directly onto the beach adjacent to the northern breakwall area. This sand is expected to naturally migrate northwards. Noting however that nourishment success is driven by wind and wave conditions (weather events) which move sand onto and away from the beach area.</i></p> <p>Question – Can sand from the mouth of the Pioneer River be dredged and used for beach nourishment.</p> <p>Response – <i>Sources for potential beach nourishment will be part of the sand sourcing study identified as an action in the draft SEMP. This will include looking at all viable sand sources, equipment, cost and approvals required. NQBP is limited in relation to dredging outside of its master plan area.</i></p>	
<p>10. Community update</p>	<p>Presented by Senior Advisor Community Relationship Emilie Power</p> <p>Recent Sponsorships and Donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent sponsorship and donation recipients include Galaxy Netball Club Mackay, Bobcats Sporting Club Mackay, Women’s Social Smash (Mackay Cricket Association), Toastmasters Northern Division Conference, Art on Show (Mackay Art Society), Mackay Marina Run and the Mackay Mayor’s Charity Ball. 	<p>ACTION - Circulate information regarding the CRG sponsorship nominations and voting process</p>

	<p>Community Fund Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-26 recipients announced at NQBP’s End of Year Stakeholder event in November 2025. • 13 organisations across Mackay, Hay Point, Bowen and Weipa shared in \$100,000. • Funding supports initiatives focused on women’s health, youth wellbeing, disability inclusion and mental health awareness. • Applications for the 2026-27 Community Fund will open in March 2026. <p>CRG Sponsorship Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRG members have an annual allocation of \$5,000 for community donations and sponsorships. • Nominations received include Slade Point Road Pump Station mural artwork and two projects for the Pine Islet Lighthouse. • Nomination period extended to 13 March 2026. • With successful recipients announced the week of 23 March 2026. <p>CRG Feedback Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the 2025 CRG feedback survey were presented. • Thank you to our CRG members for their participation and ongoing feedback. 	
<p>11. General Business</p>	<p>Mackay Regional Council (Cr Ash-Lee Johnson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised a petition regarding access to East Point has been received. <p>Mackay and District Turtle Watch (Steve Fisher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-26 nesting season has concluded, with early indications suggesting one of the strongest seasons in recent years and approximately 78% nest success rate. 	<p>ACTION - NQBP to review operating hours for North Wall toilet block Align lock times to summer/winter sunset times.</p>

	<p>Mackay Recreational Fishing (Alison Jones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are ongoing around recreational boating car parks; there is continued community interest in this space but acknowledged there weren't many opportunities to resolve issue. <p>Question – Are the Stage 2 works for North Wall still planned for this year?</p> <p>Response - <i>The project remains in design phase and construction is unlikely to commence this year.</i></p> <p>Question – Is it possible to extend the operating hours of North Wall beach toilets during certain periods of the year.</p> <p>Response – <i>NQBP will investigate and report back on this. (ACTION)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Crocodile warning sign has been installed at North Wall. Members acknowledged improvements at North Wall and the Southern Breakwater and thanked NQBP for ongoing investment in the area. 	
12. Next meeting date	Next meeting is Wednesday 15 July 2026	
13. Meeting closed	Meeting closed at 7.35pm	