

Priority port master planning fact sheet

# Draft master plan

## Priority Port of Townsville

Queensland | Australia | 2018



# Draft master plan for the priority Port of Townsville

The Queensland Government is leading master planning for four priority ports in accordance with the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015* (Ports Act) and the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan).

The Ports Act mandates master plans and port overlays for the four priority ports of Gladstone, Townsville, Hay Point/Mackay and Abbot Point, guiding their long-term growth, while protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The Queensland Government has released the draft master plan for the priority Port of Townsville for public consultation in accordance with the Ports Act. The community now has the opportunity to comment on the draft master plan until Monday 17 December.

## About the Port of Townsville

The Port of Townsville is the largest general cargo and container port in northern Australia. It supports a wide range of associated industry sectors, including resources, energy, agriculture and tourism. The port is also of increasing importance to Australia's defence capabilities in the region.

## About the draft master plan

The draft master plan sets out the long-term strategic outlook for the port and the surrounding land and marine areas vital for its sustainable development to 2050, balancing economic growth for the region while also providing for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

The draft master plan:

- identifies the proposed master planned area (the area to which the master plan applies)
- establishes the strategic significance of the Port of Townsville
- outlines a strategic vision for the port as a major driver of economic growth while also protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- states objectives and desired outcomes for the future development of the port and surrounding land and marine areas
- identifies state interests associated with the port, including managing port-related development
- includes an environmental management framework (EMF) to identify and map environmental values and manage potential impacts on environmental values from port development and operations.

## Proposed master planned area

The proposed master planned area includes land and marine areas considered important for the efficient development and operation of the port. The inclusion of land and marine areas supports the management of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) and other environmental values that may occur as a result of port development and operations.

The proposed master planned area is around 16,500 hectares and includes:

- existing and future port land
- land within the Townsville State Development Area
- land within the Townsville City Waterfront Priority Development Area
- land within the Townsville City Council local government area
- marine areas within port limits but outside state and Commonwealth marine parks.

## Master plan precincts

Precincts within the proposed master planned area outline the long-term intent for specific areas. The precinct approach identifies areas with environmental values where development should be limited, as well as separate areas that may be suitable for infrastructure and port-related development.

**Environmental management:** Areas with environmental values including those that contribute to the OUV of the GBRWHA, where development should be limited.

**Infrastructure and supply chain corridors:** Existing and planned infrastructure and supply chain corridors, including potential road and rail links.

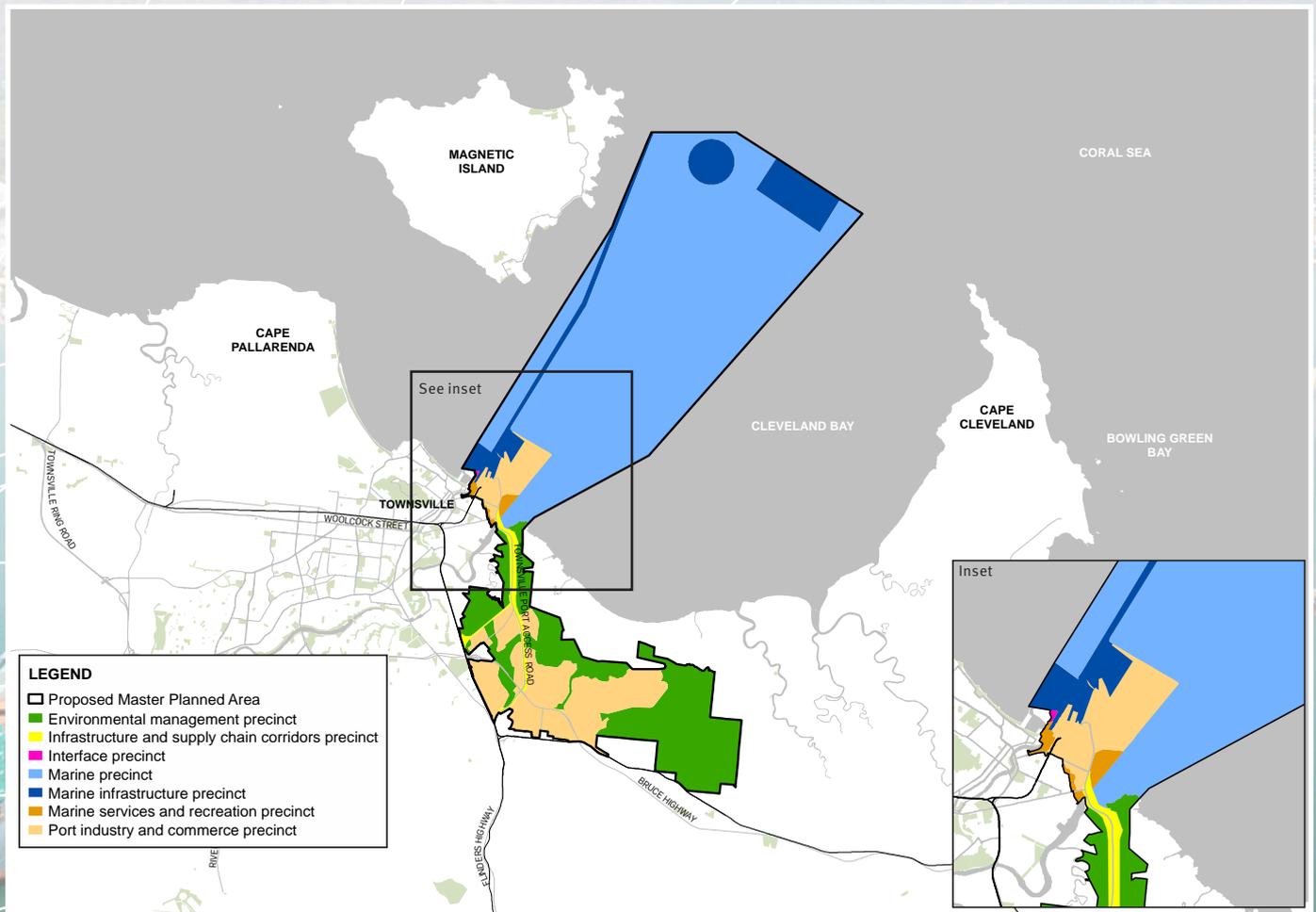
**Interface:** Areas where future residential and port operations are in close proximity and potential amenity impacts should be managed.

**Marine infrastructure:** Existing and planned marine infrastructure including channels, swing basins and berth pockets.

**Marine:** Marine areas with environmental values including those that contribute to the OUV of the GBRWHA, where development should be limited.

**Marine services and recreation:** Areas that provide for marine services and recreation, including the Townsville City Waterfront Priority Development Area.

**Port industry and commerce:** Areas identified in planning documents to provide for port operations, industry, commerce and supporting activities.



## Environmental management framework

The draft master plan includes an EMF that describes the interaction of port-related development with environmental values. The EMF was developed through a robust analysis of environmental values within and surrounding the proposed master planned area and the potential impacts of development on these values.

The EMF:

- identifies and maps environmental values within and surrounding the proposed master planned area, including those that contribute to the OUV of the GBRWHA
- identifies any potential impacts that development in the master planned area may have on environmental values
- states the objectives and measures for managing impacts that have been identified.

The draft master plan's approach for managing potential impacts from port-related development implements the environmental management hierarchy of avoid, mitigate and/or offset established through existing legislation.

## Master plan – implementation

Master plans are strategic documents that are implemented through a port overlay. The port overlay provides requirements for development that are delivered through existing planning processes that regulate development within the proposed master planned area.

A preliminary draft port overlay has been prepared for information purposes to help stakeholders understand what any potential regulatory implications stemming from the draft master plan may mean for them.

## Supporting documentation

In releasing the draft master plan for public consultation and to support transparent decision-making, a series of supporting documents have also been released. These reports were commissioned from independent technical consultants and informed the preparation of the draft master plan. These reports have informed master planning for the priority Port of Townsville and form a set of evidence base documents.



### For more information

Please visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville) to access the documents.

For further information and to view the draft master plan, please visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville)

To request a copy of the draft master plan please email [TownsvillePortMasterPlan@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:TownsvillePortMasterPlan@tmr.qld.gov.au)