

Priority port master planning

Report on public consultation

Draft port overlay for the priority Port of Townsville

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1. Background

1.1 Priority port master planning

The Queensland Government is leading master planning for the four priority ports of Gladstone, Townsville, Hay Point/Mackay, and Abbot Point, as required by the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015* (Ports Act) and the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan).

Priority port master planning will support the sustainable development of critical economic infrastructure, the state's priority ports, in a way that will balance growth, job creation, environmental values, and community interests.

1.2 Master planning for the priority Port of Townsville

The priority Port of Townsville is a critical northern gateway for the state's trade and investment. It is the largest general cargo and container port in northern Australia and Australia's leading exporter of copper, zinc, lead and sugar. The port supports a wide range of industry sectors, including resources, energy and agriculture while providing an increasingly strategic role in Australia's defence capabilities. It also plays a vital role in tourism for the region.

Through master planning, the Queensland Government has established a long-term vision for the future development of the Port of Townsville, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Master planning provides a strategic and coordinated approach, considering issues beyond strategic port land, including potential marine and land-based impacts, port and supply chain infrastructure capacity and connectivity, and economic, community, and environmental interests.

The Minister released the *Draft port overlay for the priority Port of Townsville* (draft port overlay) for public consultation in accordance with the Ports Act. The Ports Act requires that draft priority port overlays are publicly notified for at least 10 business days.

Public consultation for the draft port overlay, opened on Monday 4 November 2019 and closed on Monday 16 December 2019, providing stakeholders and the community the opportunity to make submissions on the draft port overlay.

The *Final master plan for the priority Port of Townsville* (final master plan) was also released on Monday 4 November 2019 alongside a fact sheet providing further information about the master plan.

1.3 Purpose

Under section 45 of the Ports Act, the Chief Executive of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is required to keep a register of matters raised in submissions on the draft port overlay during public consultation.

The purpose of this consultation report is to meet the requirements of section 45 of the Ports Act by providing:

- A summary of the matters raised in submissions received during the public consultation period.
- An overview of the Minister's response to the summarised matters, including how the matters raised were considered in preparing the final port overlay.

2. Public consultation program

2.1 Consultation approach

The draft port overlay was released for public consultation on Monday 4 November 2019 to Monday 16 December 2019.

A public consultation program was delivered to meet the requirements of the Ports Act. The consultation program included a range of communication and stakeholder engagement activities to raise community awareness of the scope, process, and opportunity to comment on the draft port overlay.

2.1.1 Notification of the release of the draft port overlay

In accordance with the Ports Act and to ensure the community was well-informed about the release of the draft port overlay, the following notification activities were undertaken on 4 November 2019:

- A range of information was published on the TMR website (www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville), including the draft port overlay; public notice advertisement; two fact sheets; and information about where hard copies of the master plan were available for inspection.
- Public notice advertisements were printed in The Townsville Bulletin, The Australian and The Courier-Mail, notifying the public that the Minister had released the draft port overlay and providing details about the public consultation period.
- An extraordinary Gazette Notice was issued.
- Information about the draft port overlay's release was made available on the government's get involved website.
- Letters from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads were sent to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Port of Townsville Limited (POTL), the CEO of Townsville City Council (TCC), the Mayor of TCC, the Minister for Economic Development Queensland and the Queensland Coordinator-General, informing these key stakeholders the draft port overlay had been prepared and released for public consultation.
- Emails were sent to stakeholders from a subscribers' database announcing the release of the draft port overlay, providing information on how to make a submission, and the contact details of the project team.

Additionally, public consultation on the draft port overlay was promoted through a range of communication tools, including:

- Posters with details about public consultation and information sessions placed in the Townsville City Council library and local outlets on Magnetic Island.
- Social media posts on TMR's Facebook page on 17 November 2019, Twitter account published on 17 November 2019 and LinkedIn published on Friday 22 November 2019.
- Reminder emails were sent to targeted stakeholders from a subscribers' database on 10 December 2019, reminding them of the consultation period and its closing date of 16 December 2019.
- A fact sheet was printed and distributed to the community at public information sessions, and also published on the TMR website to give Queenslanders an overview of the draft port overlay and provide information on how to make a submission.

2.1.2 Access to draft port overlay and supporting documents

The draft port overlay and supporting information about it were made available through:

- The TMR website (www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SustainablePorts-Townsville).

- Printed copies were made available at the Townsville and Brisbane public libraries and at the TMR offices at 61 Mary Street, Brisbane and 445 Flinders Street, Townsville.

2.1.3 Public information sessions

Three information sessions were held during the public consultation period where TMR officers and officers from POTL and TCC were available to talk to the community about the draft port overlay. The information sessions provided members of the public and industry stakeholders an opportunity to speak directly with officers either one-on-one, or in small groups, and discuss topics of importance relating to port activities and master planning.

Details of the public information sessions were advertised in the Townsville Bulletin on 15 November 2019, the Magnetic Island News on 19 November 2019, as well as promoted through TMR's social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn), and POTL's social media channels and local networks.

Industry stakeholders were emailed an invitation to attend one of the information sessions.

Information sessions included:

- A community information session held on 25 November 2019 at the Magnetic Island Bowls Club between 5pm and 7pm; four residents attended.
- A targeted industry session held on 26 November 2019 at the Townsville Maritime Museum between 2pm and 4pm; ten people from local businesses and organisations attended.
- A community information session held on 26 November 2019 at the Townsville Maritime Museum between 5pm and 7pm; one resident attended.

2.1.4 Port of Townsville Limited communications and media

To increase awareness of the public consultation program, POTL:

- Released a media statement about the release of the final master plan and draft port overlay on 5 November 2019.
- Published Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter posts about the release of the final master plan and draft port overlay on 8 November 2019.
- Attended port industry and community information sessions on 25 and 26 November 2019.
- Hosted a POTL community liaison group meeting to discuss the draft port overlay on 27 November 2019.

2.1.5 Website statistics

Documents were made available on TMR's program website during the public consultation period. Access by members of the community, local business, industry and stakeholders showed reasonable results:

- Website unique views — 1,085 views
- Draft port overlay — 206 downloads
- Final master plan — 223 downloads
- Fact sheets — 66 downloads.

2.1.6 Other sessions

Following the formal consultation period, follow-up meetings with submitters were held to clarify issues raised by submitters and to inform the amendments to the port overlay.

3. Submissions

3.1 Submission summary

Four submissions were received during the public consultation period, from a range of stakeholder groups and individuals, including:

- one submission from industry
- one submission from a local community group
- one submission from a local government
- one submission from an individual community member.

3.2 Themes of consultation and responses

A range of matters were raised in the submissions. These matters were categorised into three common themes. The three themes identified in the table below have been ordered based on the number of submissions that raised each theme.

Theme	Number of submissions that raised the theme
Refinement of the port overlay – document legibility, assessment requirements and mapping	2
Implications of the port overlay for existing planning and development processes	4
Matters outside the scope of the port overlay	3

All submissions received were analysed and considered during preparation of the final port overlay for the priority Port of Townsville.

The following tables identify the matters raised within each theme and outline the Minister's response including how the matters were considered in preparing the final port overlay.

It is recognised some matters may be relevant to more than one theme.

3.2.1 Refinement of the port overlay – document legibility, assessment requirements and mapping

Matter raised	Response
<p>Minor wording and mapping changes to improve the useability of the port overlay.</p>	<p>The port overlay has been amended to improve presentation and clarity of information. The following amendments were made to improve the legibility of the port overlay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilising hyperlinks to assist document navigation • improvements to sub-precinct mapping including upscaling of maps and insets (refer section 3.4 and Appendix B)
<p>Improvements to the clarity of the port overlay.</p>	<p>The following amendments were made to clarify the application of the port overlay and ensure planning terminology is consistent with other planning instruments operating within the master planned area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footnotes have been included in section 2.2, section 5 and section 6.1 to clarify the application of the port overlay and assist interpretation. • definitions for light industry, multiple dwelling and retirement facility have been included in Appendix D – Dictionary to align with the definitions in the Planning Regulation 2017.

3.2.2 Implications of the port overlay for existing planning and development processes

Matter raised	Response
<p>Query about the port overlay introducing state referral requirements where development is triggered for assessment and whether additional assessment fees are applicable</p>	<p>Master planning utilises existing development assessment processes to implement master plan outcomes.</p> <p>Section 2.2 has been updated to clarify that the State Development Assessment Provisions and the port overlay are considered together to the extent that development is already triggered for assessment by the State Development Assessment and Referral Agency.</p> <p>Assessment fees will continue to be determined by relevant assessment managers within the master planned area. The Ports Act does not provide the ability for a port overlay to determine assessment fees.</p>

Matter raised	Response
Adopting key performance indicators relating to the implementation of the master plan and port overlay	TMR will work with identified responsible entities and regulators to implement the master plan and port overlay, including developing appropriate performance indicators. The Ports Act includes a requirement to review the master plan and assess the implementation of the PMMs by the port overlay.

3.2.3 Matters outside the scope of the port overlay

Matter raised	Response
Suggestions to modify precincts and objectives from the master plan to provide increased protection for environmental values.	<p>The precinct boundaries and objectives were established in the final Townsville master plan released on 4 November 2019 and cannot be modified by the port overlay.</p> <p>The precincts identify the long-term intent for specific areas within the master planned area and the Environmental Management Framework objectives provide for the management of impacts from development on environmental values within each of the precincts.</p> <p>The port overlay recognises that existing environmental protections under State and Commonwealth legislation provide the mechanism for protection of environmental values. Any future development would be required to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on environmental values consistent with environmental legislation.</p>
Opportunities to move the existing maintenance dredged material placement area (DMPA) to deeper waters outside Cleveland Bay to minimise potential sedimentation impacts on Magnetic Island.	<p>The existing processes associated with the assessment and approval of placement areas for maintenance dredged material are not affected by the master plan or port overlay. The port overlay does not restrict the consideration of alternative locations for DMPA's.</p> <p>Consistent with the master plan, the port overlay supports opportunities for continually seeking improvements to maintenance dredging practices, including potential beneficial reuse and improved outcomes from disposal of maintenance dredged materials on land or sea.</p> <p>This aligns with the direction provided by the <i>Maintenance Dredging Strategy for the GBRWHA Ports</i> to examine and evaluate new technologies and beneficial reuse options for managing maintenance dredged material and the Long-term Maintenance Dredging Management Plan developed by Port of Townsville Ltd.</p>
Recommend that the port overlay introduce an appeal process for decisions made by the	The port overlay is delivered through existing regulatory processes and does not have the scope to modify appeal processes that are provided for

Matter raised	Response
Coordinator-General within the Townsville State Development Area.	under other legislation such as the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> or the <i>State Development Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> .
Suggestion to manage impacts from port activities on local infrastructure networks.	It is recognised that local infrastructure networks are important to facilitate port-related development. Local infrastructure is regulated under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> while the Ports Act's purpose is to facilitate the identification and protection of infrastructure critical to the effective operation of the port network.

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