



Townsville port has a clear focus on the future

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While every year has its defining moments, 2020 was unprecedented in terms of world-changing, paradigm-shifting developments. Having navigated 156 years of change, the Port of Townsville has in its sights, a clear vision for the future.

This year the Port of Townsville released its Port Vision 2050, a 30-year sustainability plan that sets the strategic course for Australia's largest exporter of base metals, sugar and live cattle, well into the future. The 12 strategic objectives and 27 initiatives across four priority areas of planet, community, people and prosperity, capture our vision and set a clear roadmap for how to get there.

Over the past 12 months, we commenced several major infrastructure projects to prepare for significant trade growth.

We are now well on the way to the biggest transformation in the Port of Townsville's 156 year history - the 30 year, \$1.6 billion Port Expansion Project. By completion, the expansion will add a new outer harbour, with widened and deepened sea channels, six new berths, 150 hectares of additional reclaimed land and associated infrastructure. The project will treble the port's trade capacity to 30 million tonnes per year.

The first stage is the \$232 million Channel Upgrade project, enabling the port to welcome larger container ships from 2,500 TEUs to 8,500 TEUs, as well as larger commercial, cruise and defence ships. All capital dredge material from the channel widening is being beneficially reused to form a new 62 hectare land area, with the 2.2 kilometre rock wall on track for completion in March 2021. Dredging works will commence shortly after, with completion late 2023.

Another new piece of infrastructure at the Port of Townsville has captured

the interest of the city. The 100 metre Liebherr Post Panamax ship-to-shore crane is the catalyst that will drive the port's containerised cargo strategy into the future. When assembly is completed in the next few months, it will be Townsville's tallest structure.

The crane is part of \$70 million of investment to upgrade Berth 4 and expand the cargo terminal area by 1.6 hectares to enable growth and handling efficiencies in containerised, general and project cargo. These works will allow the port to grow our freight capacity over the next decade, adding an additional two million tonnes per year and increasing total port tonnage throughout capacity by 20 per cent.

These improvements are already proving attractive to shipping lines seeking to strengthen their global connectivity. Just in the past few months Swire Shipping and COSCO SHIPPING Lines have both launched new fortnightly rotations between Townsville, South East Asia and China, demonstrating confidence in the North's export market and a solid investment in northern Australia.

The Port of Townsville is already the largest container and automotive port in Northern Australia, and October's completion of the \$2.5 million extension of the RoRo wharf on Berth 10, saw our efforts to become a more attractive destination for car carriers swiftly rewarded. The wharf expansion represents an opportunity to welcome larger vessels, increase car import numbers and pass on major supply chain savings to the people of Northern Australia.

In July, we began construction of a new \$4.5 million Truck Staging Area. The project will improve supply chain efficiency, reduce congestion and improve safety within the port and along port access roads, by allowing up to 20 triple road trains to safely queue just outside the port's entrance. It will also cater for the break down and re-assembling of road trains, and provide new shower and amenities facilities and an outdoor rest area.


As our region develops new strengths in broad acre cropping, mining and metal processing, advanced manufacturing and renewable energy production, the Port of Townsville is well positioned to respond to demand, with well-planned supply chain infrastructure contributing to lasting prosperity for Northern Queensland.

As the port grows, we have a sharp focus on ensuring our developments and operations protect and improve our surrounding environment and our communities. We are taking strong action on climate change with a commitment to being carbon neutral by 2025 and a climate-positive, climate-ready port by 2050.

The outlook for the Port of Townsville is bright and we are committed to delivering excellence for our customers and the communities we serve as Australia's Port for the Future. ▲



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