



Townsville – moving towards green energy and sustainability

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As the world changes, the Port of Townsville has maintained a strong focus on keeping vital trade moving to support the people of North Queensland and strengthened our resolve to deliver sustainable prosperity.

In December 2020, we launched our 30-year sustainability plan, Port Vision 2050. This roadmap captures our plan to do more to protect and improve our planet, grow partnerships and connect with our community, nurture the workforce of the future and deliver prosperity for the regions we serve.

One year on, we are proud of the progress we have made toward our 2025 commitments and 2050 goals to date including moving towards our goal of being climate positive port community powered 100% by renewable energy, planting one million trees and establishing our annual \$50,000 Community Fund.

We also took some exciting steps toward positioning the north as a green energy powerhouse, signing MoU's with several parties to explore opportunities to export green hydrogen from Townsville to international markets, including Japan and South Korea. Other emerging trade opportunities include working to support biomass, batteries, critical minerals and other renewable energy projects which will assist the world to transition to a clean energy future.

Throughout the 2020/21 financial year, significant surges in the number of motor vehicles and containerised goods imported through the port helped deliver modest profit growth in the face of another challenging year.

While overall trade dropped to 7.7 million tonnes compared to 8.2 million tonnes the previous year, containerised trade

rose 17% and motor vehicle imports increased 34%. We also recorded increases in exports of fertiliser and refined metals, as well as imports of cement, fertiliser and petroleum products.

In preparation for the growth of these new and existing trades, the Port of Townsville's future-focused capital works program powered ahead in 2021.

The year saw us supercharge the loading and unloading of container vessels with the commissioning of our new \$30 million Berth 4 Crane and Cargo Terminal. The jewel in the crown – our new Liebherr Post Panamax Ship-to-Shore crane – has doubled the operational speed of its predecessor, creating greater efficiencies for customers and improving the Port of Townsville's trade competitiveness.

With demand for containerised goods expected to grow four-fold by 2050, the Crane and Cargo Terminal, combined with a \$40 million Berth 4 wharf upgrade completed in 2018, is a key strategy in our efforts to keep pace.

Further efficiencies were unlocked with the completion of a \$4.5 million truck staging area. More than 300,000 trucks pass through our gates each year, and the area has greatly eased congestion on port roads as trucks queue for loading and unloading operations. Up to 20 triple road trains can assemble in the 13,000sqm area at any one time, easing cargo movements within the port and improving safety for all road users. We are also pleased to provide comforts for visiting truck drivers, including new toilets and shaded rest areas.

Momentum continued on our \$232 million channel upgrade project. The construction of a 2.2km rock wall is now complete, with the wall forming the

perimeter of a 62 hectare reclamation area, which will be the placement site for material recovered during capital dredging as the project moves into its next phase in 2022.

The channel widening is critical to preparing the Port to welcome larger cruise, defence and commercial vessels and generate new economic opportunities for the north.

While economic stability is vital to our Port and the region, we know that to remain a strong and vibrant place to live, we must also continue our long history of protecting our environment and supporting the community.

In 2021, we joined the ECOPORTS network by completing Self-Diagnosis Method certification. ECOPORTS praised our commitment to high standards of environmental management and continual improvement. The review confirmed that we are well-placed to achieve Port Environmental Review System (PERS) Certification, the world's only port sector-specific environmental management standard.

It has given us great delight to see the 17 community projects supported through our inaugural Community Fund come to life. These events and initiatives are vital to building strong, vibrant and liveable communities.

As we move into 2022, we look forward to advancing further on our Port Vision 2050 commitments to forge a more sustainable future for the Port of Townsville, our customers, and the community. ▲