

**Invitation for Public Comment  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
Townsville Port Expansion Project (EPBC 2011/5979)**

The Australian Government Department for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities invites you to have your say on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Townsville Port Expansion Project (EPBC 2011/5979).

Port of Townsville Limited is proposing a \$1.5 billion expansion of the Port of Townsville to accommodate forecast growth in trade at the port and to address current capacity constraints.

The project's key features are:

- new deep water outer harbour
- possible new western breakwater to protect the outer harbour
- up to six additional vessel berths in the new outer harbour
- deepening of the existing approach channels (the Sea and Platypus channels) (approximately 10Mm<sup>3</sup>)
- widening of the approach channel near the outer harbour entrance (and lengthening of the sea channel seaward by approximately two kilometres)
- approximately 100 ha of reclaimed land backing the new berths to provide for bulk cargo storage and a rail loop, formed from material (approximately 4.3Mm<sup>3</sup>) reclaimed from the harbour deepening and from mainland sources
- placement of unsuitable and excess dredged material (approximately 5.6Mm<sup>3</sup>) at sea—in the approved dredge material placement area in Cleveland Bay.

The project would generate 250 construction jobs and 90 operational jobs.

### **EIS process**

On 1 July 2011, the Australian Government Minister for the Environment determined the proposal was a 'controlled action' (EPBC 2011/5979) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Comments are invited in accordance with s103(1)(c) of the EPBC Act.

The relevant controlling provisions (Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)) under the EPBC Act are:

- World Heritage properties (sections 12 & 15A)
- National Heritage places (sections 15B & 15C)
- Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 & 17B)
- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
- Commonwealth marine areas (sections 23 & 24A)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B & 24C).

The EIS for the Townsville Port Expansion Project will be assessed by both the Australian and Queensland governments, under separate but parallel processes.

**Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 27 May 2013.**

### **How to make a submission**

#### **1. Read the EIS**

- Download the EIS at [www.townsville-port.com.au/eis](http://www.townsville-port.com.au/eis), or
- order a free copy on CD by telephoning (free call) 1800 012 284 or emailing [EIS@townsville-port.com.au](mailto:EIS@townsville-port.com.au), or
- view a printed copy between 23 March 2013 and 27 May 2013 at:

- National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra, ACT
- State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Brisbane
- Townsville City Library, Level 1 Northtown, 280 Flinders Mall, Townsville

**2. Send your submission relating to MNES by 5pm on Monday 27 May 2013:**

email: [EIS@townsville-port.com.au](mailto:EIS@townsville-port.com.au)

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Persons with special needs or who are unable to download the document can contact Port of Townsville Limited via the email address above or phone on (07) 4781 1500.