

24/10/2016

MEDIA ALERT
[for immediate release]

‘Community gathers about Port expansion plans’

The North Queensland Conservation Council is facilitating a forum on Magnetic Island about the potential impacts associated with the Port of Townsville expansion project.

WHERE: Magnetic Island RSL, 31 Hayles Ave, Arcadia
WHEN: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

This community forum aims to bring together concerned community organisations and individuals, to share information on the challenges presented by the project. to provide guidance and support in making a formal written submission and look to wider strategies to counter the damage this project will cause.

On 8 Oct, the Port of Townsville released an Additional Environmental Impact Statement (AEIS) for the expansion project, supporting the original EIS released in 2013. Comments are due 7 Nov.

NQCC has expressed significant concerns over the potential environmental impacts of the project, including risks to water quality and subsequent smothering of marine ecosystems and impacts of noise and vibration. Of concern to residents, fishers and tourists of the region is the potential impact to the beaches of Magnetic Island, and local fishing spots around Cleveland Bay.

NQCC recognises that community action has resulted in a ban on disposal of dredge spoil within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, significantly reducing some of the potential impacts. However, there is still concern over the ongoing dredging program. The capital dredging has blown out from 4 years to 10.5 years, maintenance dredging increased by 17%, and widening the sea channel (at places) from 92 m to 180 m.

All members of the public are invited to participate in the forum.

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Contact: Maree Dibella, 0428 987 535

NQCC is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, campaigning as the peak non-government environmental organisation in our region since 1974.

We protect the environment through advocacy and education, promote the values of the natural environment, and engage with policy and planning processes to advocate ecologically sustainable development.