



**CAIRNS PORT  
DEVELOPMENT INC**  
OUR PORT - OUR FUTURE

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **14 FEBRUARY 2017**

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#### **CAIRNS PORT UPGRADE DELAYED AGAIN**

The previous deadline for submission of the draft environmental statement by 30 June 2017 is cancelled. The new deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Ports North has extended the deadline for the study of the Cairns Shipping Development project FOUR times, once in 2014, twice in 2015 and again on the 20th December 2016.

CPDI Chairman RON CREW questions the process as the deadline constantly shifts. “So what is the point of having a deadline? In 2014, the project was extended beyond the government's election period and it's happening again. You can forgive our supporters for thinking the government continues to play politics by manipulating the outcome to appease Green party voters in Brisbane.”

“We have been well advised that this is costing our local businesses at least \$60 million a year in lost earnings, and the project has been slashed to one quarter of the original size. The study's cost to the taxpayer is nearly \$8 million alone. This is all for a project that is estimated to cost in total, about \$120 million to deliver.”

“Today we had a repeat of a great loss, when cruise ship Radiance of the Seas, due to arrive at Yorkeys Knob this morning, cancelled her shore excursions due to wind. She carries 2500 passengers. If the dredging gets done this class of ship can berth in Cairns and there would be no disappointed passengers or tour operators. They had 4 passenger boats standing by, 3 came from Townsville to conduct ship to shore transfers. This is a costly exercise and everyone has lost out.”

“In the meantime, the Townsville Port project is soon to be approved with an estimated \$1.64 billion spend on upgrades. Brisbane colleagues, Cairns is NOT A SUBURB OF TOWNSVILLE. Cairns is four hours drive North of Townsville. Cairns Port services Far North Queensland which has the largest regional population in Northern Australia.”

“It is too little, too late and we are getting a boutique port whether we like it or not.”

“Can we remind the public that we have yet to see the revised project in detail that is well overdue. The public should be aware that under the Queensland Government’s Sustainable Ports Development Act, if the Environmental Impact Study lapses Cairns will be barred from upgrading its Seaport. The public should also be aware that even if this project is completed, this damaging legislation bans any further capital works dredging of Cairns Seaport.”

**Ends**

For further interview opportunities, contact: E: [admin@cairnssport.org.au](mailto:admin@cairnssport.org.au)

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