



## What is the Townsville Marine Precinct?

**The Townsville Marine Precinct is a proposal for a commercial marine precinct at the mouth of Ross River.**

The proposed development includes reclamation of Lot 773 at Benwell Road. A catalyst for the development of the Townsville Marine Precinct Project is the construction of the Townsville Port Access Road by the Department of Main Roads, which includes a low-level fixed bridge across Ross River. The development of the Marine Precinct will enable a number of commercial marine activities from sites upstream of the future bridge to relocate prior to the completion of the Townsville Port Access Road.

As a purpose built commercial marina facility, the Townsville Marine Precinct will provide an opportunity to co-locate marine-dependent industries and provide 'best practice' environmental management infrastructure. It will enable the region's

existing marine industry to expand and diversify. The proposed Townsville Marine Precinct will be located on the northern bank of the mouth of Ross River at Benwell Road. The total area of the precinct will be approximately 34 hectares (ha), extending south from Benwell Road beach (Figure 1). It is possible that a breakwater will be required to ensure protection of vessels from wave action. A number of different breakwater options are being investigated as part of the project.

## What is the project's background?

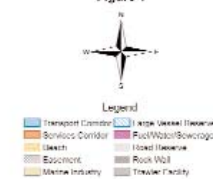
A Marine Precinct, situated at the mouth of the Ross River, has been proposed in various forms for the past 30 years. Such a facility provides for the continued growth of marine businesses in Townsville and enables adherence to stricter environmental controls on activities adjacent to water-ways.

The Port of Townsville has already completed preliminary studies, particularly environmental investigations over the past 10 to 15 years. Such studies included migratory bird surveys, surveys of



Concept drawing of possible marina layout and potential breakwater options

## TOWNSVILLE MARINE PRECINCT CONCEPT LAYOUT Figure 1



0 250 Meters

Horizontal Datum: GDA94  
Horizontal Coordinate System: MQA Zone 59  
Produced by: POTS Marine  
Townsville (Townsville) Port Ltd.  
On behalf of: Port of Townsville (PoT)  
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Scale: 1:10,000  
Drawing: 0040800/0429  
File: Marine\_Precinct\_Concept.mxd  
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public use of Lot 773, sea-grass surveys and water quality monitoring in adjacent areas.

### **What is the project's current status?**

The Port of Townsville recently sought Expressions of Interest from industry to develop the Marine Precinct, with a tender process anticipated to take place from October 2008 to February 2009. Design for the Townsville Marine Precinct is scheduled to commence in May 2009.

GHD Pty Ltd has been contracted by the Port of Townsville Limited to undertake an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Townsville Marine Precinct Project. The objective of the EIS is to identify potential environmental impacts of the project and recommend measures to avoid or manage potential environmental impacts.

### **What will the EIS consider?**

A range of sensitive environmental factors occur in this area. The EIS will have a particular focus on issues of greatest environmental concern. These include potential impacts on marine fauna such as dugong, turtles, dolphins, water quality, migratory birds, benthic (sea bed dwelling) organisms and seagrass. It will also consider impacts to adjacent terrestrial environments.

The EIS will include:

- definition and analysis of the potential impacts of the development on the environment;
- definition of measures proposed to address adverse effects;
- recommendations on the need for and contents of environmental management plans; and
- a social and economic impact assessment.

It will also include consultation with the Townsville community, local residents and businesses and key interest and stakeholder groups.



The draft EIS is expected to be completed in early to mid 2009, and will be released for public comment at this time.

### **How can the local community have a say?**

Port of Townsville Limited wants to work with the community to develop an environmentally and socially beneficial project. A community involvement (consultation) program has been developed to allow all sectors of the community to participate in the EIS process. The program includes provision of project information to residents, businesses, stakeholders and interested members of the community via newsletters, meetings and public displays.

Opportunities for involvement will be widely publicised and will be flexible to allow the needs of the community to be accommodated as the study progresses. Community consultation will focus on seeking community and stakeholder input to issues relevant to the EIS for the Marine Precinct, such as the development of strategies to minimise potential project impacts and feedback on the Draft EIS report. The consultation program will be included as part of the EIS and runs until March 2009.



### **How do I get more information?**

If you would like more information or would like to provide input to the Environmental Impact Study for the Townsville Marine Precinct please contact the project team by:

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or

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**PORT of TOWNVILLE**  
Nexus North Queensland