

## Media Alert

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30 September, 2014

### Port of Cairns welcomes “VOLENDAM”



<b>Built:</b>	1999
<b>Category:</b>	4-stars
<b>GT:</b>	61214 tonnes
<b>Shipyard:</b>	Fincantieri
<b>Length:</b>	237.7m
<b>Beam:</b>	32.20m
<b>Draught:</b>	5.15m
<b>Total output:</b>	43200 kW
<b>Speed:</b>	23 knots
<b>Stabilisers:</b>	Yes
<b>Passenger decks:</b>	10
<b>Passengers:</b>	1432
<b>Crew:</b>	615
<b>Tender (150 seats):</b>	6
<b>Hospital:</b>	Yes
<b>Agent:</b>	Inchcape: Ph: 40515211
<b>Ship's Registry:</b>	The Netherlands
<b>Owner:</b>	Carnival Corporation & plc
<b>Operator:</b>	Holland America Line

A touch of the Netherlands comes to the Far North this month, with the *MS Volendam* heralding the annual global invasion during the region's busy cruise season.

Carrying 1432 passengers and 615 crew members, the impressive cruise vessel enters the Port of Cairns on Saturday, October 25.

“The *Volendam* is an elegant, mid-sized cruise ship that draws people from all over the world,” Ports North Chairman Brett Moller said.

“And the Port of Cairns offers those passengers a rare chance to step straight off a gangplank and into the heart of an equally beautiful city for a day of sightseeing, shopping and soaking up Far North Queensland hospitality.

“There are very few ports that can offer such close proximity to a major city. But our port merges seamlessly with the Cairns CBD.”

The *Volendam* is the first of a long list of cruise ships from around the world to arrive in Cairns over the official cruise season.

Four more ships call in November: *Rhapsody of the Seas*, *Silver Discoverer*, *National Geographic Orion* and *Crystal Symphony*; four in December: *Celebrity Century*, *Seabourn Odyssey*, *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *L'Austral*; three in January: the *Europa*, *Celebrity Century*, and *Rhapsody of the Seas*; and a whopping seven arrivals in February: *Asuka II*, *Astor*, *Columbus 2*, *Pacific Princess*, *Rhapsody of the Seas*, *Albatros* and *L'Austral*.

Another six ships will enter the Port of Cairns in the months thereafter.

“The cruise season is a busy and prosperous time for Cairns,” Mr Moller said. “So many people are keen to explore our region.

“Cairns businesses and the local community are encouraged to get on board to ensure all our visitors go away with their best cruise memories and spread the word that Cairns is a premier tourist destination.”

All up, some 74 cruise ships will visit the Far North: berthing in Cairns and mooring off Yorkeys Knob, Port Douglas, Cooktown and Thursday Island.

“The cruise ship industry is vitally important to Cairns and Queensland contributing significant funds to the local economy and supporting employment,” Mr Moller said.

“This again underlines the importance of the Cairns Shipping Development Project, aimed at improving access to the Port of Cairns and ensuring that our city is well positioned to capitalise on the booming global cruise industry.”

Further information on cruise shipping and the Cairns Shipping Development Project is available at [www.portsnorth.com.au](http://www.portsnorth.com.au)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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