

Media Release

25 September 2012

Ports North welcomes Queensland Government “green light” for Cairns shipping project

Ports North welcomes the Queensland Government’s declaration today of the Cairns Shipping Development Project as a “significant project” by the Queensland Coordinator-General.

The project will upgrade the existing infrastructure for the Port of Cairns to allow entry by larger vessels, in particular cruise ships. Improvements include expansion of the existing shipping channel, and shipping swing basins as well as upgrades of the existing wharves and ancillary services.

Ports North will now progress comprehensive community and stakeholder consultation as part of the Environmental Impact Statements required by the State and Federal governments.

“The Cairns Shipping Development Project will provide improved Port infrastructure to support on-going and sustainable growth of the Cairns tourism economy,” said Brett Moller, Chairman of Ports North. “It will also enable future growth of the cruising shipping market and expansion of the HMAS Cairns Navy base, providing improved access for Australian and foreign Navy vessels as well as opening other opportunities for our ports general cargo users.”

About one-third of cruise ships currently visiting the area are unable to come into the Port of Cairns because of their size.

“This project delivers significant economic benefits to both Cairns and the State of Queensland,” Mr Moller said. “Without these improvements to the channel width and depth, mega class ships will not be able to enter the Port.”

The infrastructure upgrades will see mega class cruise ship numbers forecast to grow by 61 annual visits by 2025 and deliver regional economic benefits of \$436 million.

The project scope to deliver the improved cruise ship infrastructure involves channel dredging, upgrades to wharves and expanded land-based services to support the cruise ships.

“Ports North has extensive experience in delivering major projects and managing port infrastructure while maintaining high levels of environmental management.

“Today’s decision takes this project to the next stage where we can actively engage in discussions with key stakeholders including the international cruise industry,” Mr Moller said.

The Cairns Shipping Development Project is subject to the completion of environmental impact assessments.

Project details can be found at www.portsnorth.com.au

For further details, contact:

Kerry Egerton, General Manager Corporate Services

Ph: 0410 308 360