

Media Release

26 April 2016

Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal ramps up for more visits

Ports North has welcomed today's announcement by Princess Cruises to start berthing its three Australian-based ships in the Port of Cairns.

Ports North chairman, Russell Beer, said the opportunity for the Port of Cairns to host Princess Cruises Sun class vessels is a continuation of Ports North's approach in attracting a larger slice of the cruise ship market.

Mr Beer said "this decision builds on Ports North's commitment to playing an active part in developing and supporting the Far North Queensland tourism industry. Ports North is a strong advocate for the value of cruise tourism to Cairns and we continue to search for opportunities for Cairns as a port-of-call as well as a home port."

"Today's announcement by Princess Cruises is clear evidence of that and demonstrates we have not been sitting on our hands.

"The extensive investigations Ports North have undertaken over the past two years as part of the Cairns Shipping Development Project Environmental Impact Statement process, coupled with the experience gained through 52 channel transits undertaken by cruise ship Rhapsody of the Seas, means we know more about the characteristics of the channel than ever before.

"The announcement by Princess Cruises to dock their Australian-based Sun class vessels in Cairns is clear evidence of this" Mr Beer said.

"It is pleasing to see the work we have been doing is producing positive economic outcomes for the City" Mr Beer said.

This announcement by Princess Cruises combined with the previously announced P & O home porting arrangement will see cruise ship visits to the Port of Cairns increase more than 50% to 65 visits during 2017 compared to 42 scheduled this year.

For information on cruise ship arrivals please visit our website on www.portsnorth.com.au

END

Kerry Egerton
General Manager Corporate Services
Ph: 0410 308 360