

Townsville Port Stakeholder Working Group Media statement – 5/8/2015

As provided to Tony Raggatt at the POTL Community Information Session

The complete Townsville Port Stakeholder Working Group met for the third time on Friday (31/7/2015) for what was again a positive and useful session focussing on the regulatory environment for port operations.

Working Group members heard from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation supported by the Department of Health, and Townsville City Council about their respective roles, areas of responsibility, triggers for concern and regulatory responses.

DSITI's David Wainwright provided a detailed briefing on air monitoring processes and discussed the latest air quality data for the Port of Townsville (covering the period to the beginning of May 2015), data he described as "encouraging".

In its meetings to date the Working Group has now covered the foundation aspects of its work:

- the reason for and functioning of the Group
- an understanding of the products passing through and the environmental practices of Port of Townsville users
- the regulatory and scientific basis of environmental protection

Working Group Independent Chair David Donohue said, with this basis, the Group was now able to more effectively keep the community informed about environmental performance at the Port, supporting and stimulating improvements to environmental performance, and helping to making Townsville a better place to live and work.

Mr Donohue said the August meeting of the Working Group would focus on further briefing from DSITI and potentially viewing first data from the new near-real time air quality monitoring equipment being installed.

David Donohue
Chair, Townsville Port Stakeholder Working Group
0407 169 851