

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade The Honourable Andrew Fraser

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

\$1.3 billion Townsville Port expansion declared a significant project

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser today welcomed the Coordinator-General's decision to declare the \$1.3 billion expansion of the Townsville Port a significant project.

Mr Fraser said the move reflected the critical importance of the Port and its expansion to securing Townsville's future economic growth.

"The Government recognises the importance of getting the expansion of Queensland's third-largest multi-commodity port right to ensure it can meet the needs of current and future Port users, accommodate forecast growth and address current capacity constraints," Mr Fraser said.

"As part of the expansion, Port of Townsville Limited proposes the construction of a new deep water outer harbour, six additional vessel berths and installation of new navigational aids.

"The scope of the expansionary plans is substantial, with approximately 250 jobs expected to be created during construction, including 90 ongoing operational jobs."

Mr Fraser said by being declared a significant project, Port of Townsville Limited would be able to access the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's project management and cross-government approvals process coordination.

"When the Coordinator-General declares a project significant, he does so after considering the project's scale, complexity of approvals, as well as the potential effects on the environment and infrastructure," Mr Fraser said.

"But it is important to note that a significant project declaration is not an indication of project approval.

"Rather it signals the beginning of a rigorous assessment and community consultation process which will consider the project's environmental, economic and social impacts."

Because the project lies within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, it will now go before the Australian Government for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

"The next step for the Townsville Port expansion will be the preparation of the terms of reference for the environmental impact statement," he said.

"This will be circulated to key stakeholders and advertised for public comment in the coming months."

For more information on the Townsville Port expansion project, visit <http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/>

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