

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

CAIRNS MARINE MAINTENANCE PRECINCT

PROPONENT:

- Advance Cairns
- Tropical Reef Slipway
- Norship Marine
- BSE Cairns Slipway

PRIORITY:

Infrastructure

COUNCIL:

Cairns

STATE ELECTORATE:

Cairns

FEDERAL ELECTORATE:

Leichhardt



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cairns requires a sustainable marine capacity to service both defence and industry needs, provide growth, jobs and a secure future for Northern Australian families. The Marine Precinct offers a competitive environment which drives innovation, quality and value for money for its diverse user base (which includes the Commonwealth). The Tropical North Queensland region has the largest marine services sector in Northern Australia, currently servicing Navy vessels from HMAS Cairns, Darwin and the Pacific Islands. This sector employs over 4,500 personnel, across 270 organisations, and includes 3 major slipways with the capacity to service vessels up to 100m in length and weighing 3,000 tonnes. Services are cost advantageous compared to other Australian ship repair centres, saving defence time and money whilst reducing risk. This is due to the efficiency of the slipways, the compact marine district and the expert workforce on-hand ensuring there are no 'learning-curve' costs to the client.

THE PROPOSAL - Part 1

That the Federal Government commits to the long term, continuous maintenance and sustainment, docking and refit programs in Cairns for the Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Pacific Patrol Boats, Armidale Class Patrol Boats and Custom's Cape Class Patrol Boats, in addition to current Hydrographic Survey Vessels and Survey Motor Launches by the end of 2017/18 Financial Year.

The rationale for this proposal is that it will:

- leverage the precinct's current capability to ensure value for money for the Commonwealth;
- support Northern Australia's further growth and job creation;
- offer a continuous naval patrol boat sustainment solution;
- provide industry continuity and sustain marine capability in Cairns to service the defence and broader marine industries; and
- support ongoing innovation and development of marine industry expertise in the region.

THE PROPOSAL - Part 2

It is proposed our Governments commit funds for planning and infrastructure to ensure Cairns is a Sustainment Marine Hub with capacity to service future naval and industry needs.

To ensure infrastructure meets the future needs of defence in an efficient and cost effective way and allows for competition on a level playing field, additional planning and infrastructure funds will be required to complete Stage 2 works to ensure Cairns is a Sustainment Marine Hub with capacity to service future navy and industry needs.

The **Infrastructure and Policy Priorities** list is a range of initiatives that has been developed collaboratively by leading regional advocates and is regularly reviewed and updated.



The first stage of the Cairns Marine Precinct upgrade will be delivered under the existing \$24M Federal Government commitment. The first stage will deliver wharves, hardstands, slipway extension and service upgrades. Subsequent stages will look at significant increases in overall precinct capacity to expand industry opportunities to attract and service new businesses to the region. This infrastructure priority is complementary to, and supports the Cairns Shipping Development priority, as the increased channel capacity will facilitate safe access for larger navy ships and the relocation of the Cairns Channel swing basin will enable future expansion of HMAS Cairns' navy base.

PROJECT COSTS AND TIMELINES

>\$100M, by the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SUPPORT

The Far North Queensland region has a proud and long standing history in effectively supporting both the defence and marine industries. A recognised key strategic benefit in Cairns is its geographical location within Northern Australia and that Cairns has a significant and dedicated marine precinct with 3 shipyards, a naval base and supporting industry all contained within a tight footprint which provides unparalleled logistical benefits. The local marine precinct is home to high value, innovative businesses which compete globally with PNG and Singapore for contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

- **That the Federal Government commits to the long term, continuous maintenance and sustainment, docking and refit programs in Cairns for the Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Pacific Patrol Boats, Armidale Class Patrol Boats and Custom's Cape Class Patrol Boats, in addition to current Hydrographic Survey Vessels and Survey Motor Launches by the end of 2017/18 Financial Year.**
- **It is proposed that the Governments commit to funds for planning and infrastructure to ensure Cairns is a Sustainment Marine Hub with capacity to service future navy and industry needs.**