




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Port of Townsville

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.08 am): Earlier this year I was very pleased to join the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville at the port of Townsville to announce the upgrade of berth 4 after the Palaszczuk government kept the port in public hands. Today I am encouraging experienced local contractors to review the tender for supply and construction of the berth 4 redevelopment. The tender was released to the public yesterday and will be open to submissions for 6½ weeks, closing at 2 pm on Thursday, 24 December this year.

Works will take place on the berth 4 wharf and backing land and will include marine and land piling, suspended concrete slabs, wharf deck and pile demolition, services installation and pavement construction to facilitate greater container capacity. The release of the tender is an important milestone in the project, which could help deliver a 20 per cent increase on total tonnage at the port. This hefty project is an investment to improve efficiencies, create North Queensland jobs and capacity at the port of Townsville as well as grow the North Queensland economy. It is part of a program of works including the stage 4 Townsville ring-road currently under construction so that Townsville can deliver frequent and direct services to international markets. We expect around 100 North Queensland jobs will be created during the construction phase and the full upgrade to take around 18 months to complete. The upgrade and redevelopment of berth 4 will facilitate access for larger Panamax size vessels, create a landside cargo handling area and improve intermodal transfer of cargo to both road and rail.

This project follows the \$40 million in private sector investment by the port's two major stevedoring companies, Northern Stevedoring Services and Townsville Bulk Storage & Handling, into warehousing, cargo storage areas and harbour cranes. Works on the berth 4 redevelopment project will kick off early next year, with the new upgraded facility expected to commence operations late in 2017. The tender document is now available on the Queensland government e-tender website. I encourage all interested parties to review the documents and consider getting involved.

The port of Townsville is a vital and strategic trading port for North Queensland and is Northern Australia's largest general cargo and container port. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new chair, Renita Garard, on her appointment. Renita was born in Townsville, she is a dual Olympian and she brings a wealth of commercial and leadership experience to the position.

I am very pleased to also advise the House that the port of Townsville will establish a sister port relationship with Indonesia Port Corporation II, with a memorandum of understanding to be signed this week in Canberra at the Indonesia-Australia business summit. This agreement will strengthen our economic and commercial bonds with Indonesia and leverage trade and port operations opportunities and development. The port itself continues to go from strength to strength and is a great example of a government owned business kicking goals for Queenslanders locally and abroad.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Hinchinbrook may not like this, but perhaps that is a sad—

Ms Trad: He doesn't like anything today.

Mr BAILEY: He does not like anything today. The member for Hinchinbrook is having a bit of a grumpy day.

It is a sad indictment that those opposite were planning to sell off the port of Townsville to the private sector.