

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1252**

**Asked on Wednesday 19 September 2018**

**MR A POWELL** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Cairns Shipping Development Project—

Will the Minister provide a date for when dredging of the Trinity Inlet will commence?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Glass House for the question.

Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (trading as Ports North) is the port authority for the Port of Cairns, and is the proponent for the Cairns Shipping Development Project (CSDP).

The CSDP involves the widening and deepening of the existing port channel to allow larger cruise ships access to berth at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, as well as enabling the future expansion of HMAS I base and improving the efficiency of bulk cargo shipping operations.

The CSDP will increase the number of cruise ships visiting the Port of Cairns from 77 up to 150, will create up to 800 new construction jobs over the five-year construction period, as well as 2700 jobs after the construction phase.

On 28 January 2018, the Coordinator-General completed his evaluation report and approved the port upgrades with stringent reef safeguards.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$60 million to the project over two years from 2018–19, subject to federal environmental approvals.

I respectfully suggest to the honourable Member that he lobby his colleagues in Canberra to expedite environmental approvals so this important project can proceed.