

## Media Release

5 August 2014

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### Ports North welcomes P&O Cruises homeport announcement

Ports North has welcomed an announcement by P&O Cruises confirming the Port of Cairns as homeport for one of its new cruise ships during the peak cruise months in 2016.

Ports North Chairman Brett Moller said the announcement was a clear sign of confidence in Cairns, further cementing the city as one of Australia's premier cruise destinations.

He said the decision to homeport the 1500-passenger *Pacific Eden* in Cairns from September to November 2016 was an endorsement of the quality facilities on offer through the award-winning Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.

Mr Moller confirmed that Ports North have been working behind-the-scenes with the cruise company over recent months to make this opportunity possible.

"Ports North's investment in providing world-class facilities for Cairns is directly benefiting local tourism and all of the services that support the industry," Mr Moller said.

The decision to homeport the *Pacific Eden* in Cairns has been estimated to deliver more than \$4 million in economic benefits to the region.

Mr Moller noted that P&O Cruises CEO Ann Sherry had endorsed further development of the Port of Cairns with her comment that "the proposed dredging of Trinity Inlet is essential so that Cairns can cater for larger cruise ships to realise its full potential as a major cruise hub".

Mr Moller said: "Attracting a diversity of vessels is consistent with Ports North's approach to attracting a larger slice of the cruise ship market and this is one very clear sign of strength and support."

He said Ports North and TTNQ have been working for a number of years to grow cruise shipping in the region and it is pleasing to see the success of these efforts being realised.

Ports North will continue to progress the Cairns Shipping Development Project by delivering a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement later this year.

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