

Ports North a key player in keeping our waterways healthy

Ports North is taking another major step in maintaining the environmental integrity of Far North Queensland waterways by joining the newly established Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership.

“We take very seriously our role as a guardian of the Great Barrier Reef, and have a suite of projects we support,” Ports North Chairman Russell Beer said. “This latest development will build on our commitment to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region’s life blood.”

The Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership is a Queensland Government initiative which was created as part of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan).

Ports North has provided \$10,000 in seed funding towards establishing the Partnership Program and is committing further funding towards the FY2017 Program budget.

Ports North is also providing in-kind management and technical support as well as water quality data and findings from other research we have undertaken to help contribute to an annual Wet Tropics Report Card.

“Ports North has been an active participant in vital research in Far North Queensland for many years,” Mr Beer said. “While we have a major business arm to our corporation, we are also a steward of the environment. It is in all of our interests to keep this region healthy now, and for future generations.”

Among its environmental responsibilities, Ports North has supported the Crown of Thorns Starfish removal program for the past 10 years and the James Cook University annual seagrass monitoring program across several of its ports for the past 15 years.

“We also monitor sediments, marine pests, benthic flora and fauna on a regular basis,” Mr Beer said. “Further to that, we provide sponsorship for the annual School Environmental Awards Program, the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre and the Eco Fiesta event each year and are active participants of the Local Marine Advisory Committee, and both State and National Port Environmental Working Groups”.

“Ports North welcomes the opportunity to be a member of this new Partnership and we look forward to pooling our knowledge and resources with other organisations to ensure a well-managed and thriving Wet Tropics region,” Mr Beer said.

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