



Strategy Project Overview

Ports North has commenced the development of a Sustainability Strategy for the Ports North network. This project will run in parallel with the Port Master Planning Project.

Ports North adopts the globally accepted definition of sustainable development which is:

‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

Why is this project important?

Developing a Sustainability Strategy will help us shape our strategic plans and operations and make decisions that enable our vision **to be a successful, sustainable port operator and a valued contributor to regional economic growth.**

What will the project cover?

The Sustainability Strategy will be a whole-of-business project covering all of Ports North’s business and governance. The project will capture and assess all important economic, environmental and community issues.

The project will also include an assessment of our policies, strategies and governance against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



This is consistent with the intent and direction of the recently launched World Port Sustainability Program (#WPSP) (<https://sustainableworldports.org>)

Ports Australia (Australia’s Seaport Industry Group) has recently signed up to the #WPSP as a partner. Ports North’s decision to prepare a whole-of-business Sustainability Strategy is therefore consistent with this global partnership.



The project will involve four key stages:



The Sustainability Strategy will address key themes of environment, social/community, economics and infrastructure and partnerships and will include key strategies and targets across a range of topics.

Future sustainability reporting frameworks will also be addressed – enabling Ports North to report on progress, trends and future actions.

What are the benefits and outcomes?

The benefits of the Sustainability Strategy include:

- demonstrating a best practice approach by using United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as the strategy platform
- demonstrating a balanced approach to port governance and operations within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- ensuring the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is an intrinsic consideration in future port development, management and governance
- demonstrating consistency with Ports Australia's signatory to the World Port Sustainability Program
- enabling stakeholder participation in critical policy development
- clearly communicating Ports North's commitment to sustainable development

Who is managing the project?

Ports North is leading the project and has engaged specialist consultants, Sprott Planning and Environment, to lead the development of the Strategy.

Sprott Planning and Environment have extensive expertise in the areas of strategic port planning, sustainability, environmental management and governance and have worked extensively with ports throughout Australia and overseas.

Any questions regarding the project can be directed to enquiries@portsnorth.com.au